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Palestinian Affairs

Jerusalem Radio, TV Office 'Stormed' by Settlers

JN1807185895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Four settlers stormed the office of Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation in the occupied city of Jerusalem this afternoon. Office employees immediately stopped them and expelled them from the office.

Corporation sources in the holy city said that the four settlers were armed and that they took pictures of the office from inside before the employees expelled them and closed the doors in their faces. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Adviser Notes Differences in Talks

JN1807153195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to PA President Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, good evening.

[Kanafani] Good evening.

[Correspondent] The settlers' violations in the al-Khidr village, where they bring mobile houses, occupy new positions, and provoke inhabitants, have become an almost daily phenomenon not only in al-Kihdr but also in Hebron, Janin, and other Palestinian towns. Is this a preplanned scheme by the settlers? Does the Israeli Government have anything to do with it? What is your interpretation of these violations?

[Kanafani] First, I agree with you that those violations have become a repeated phenomenon in recent days. I am not concerned here with establishing a connection between them and the Israeli Government or with determining whether they are a new phenomenon. However, reality shows that those practices are a clear and blatant violation of the agreement that was signed by the PLO and the Israeli Government. The Israeli Government should restrain its citizens and their violations of the agreement because this may lead to results with serious effects on the peace process. Such practices do not help create an appropriate atmosphere for dialogue within this process. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Kanafani, let us move to the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations near Haifa. What are the points of agreement and disagreement in these negotiations, especially since the countdown for the 25 July target date has started?

[Kanafani] We do not want to fall captive again to the question of dates. Dates are meant to expedite arriving at an agreement, which has been delayed for too long because of the Israeli procrastination. Dates should not be turned into a weapon against the Palestinians themselves. This is because the objective is to arrive at a good agreement rather than at any agreement. The negotiations are still going on because there are differences between us and the Israelis. There are differences on almost every topic of discussion with the Israelis. The Palestinian people and their National Authority intend to arrive at an agreement that maintains Palestinian principles and rights. This is an issue that requires a great deal of resilience, patience, determination, flexibility, firmness, and efforts which will lead to arriving at an agreement. We insist on the Palestinian point of view, focusing on two main issues: First, we want to arrive at a peace agreement honoring the pledge of the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] to resolve problems through negotiations. Second, we want to maintain the Palestinian rights and the constants which made the PLO and the PNA sign a negotiated agreement with the Israeli Government.

[Correspondent] Is it because of these differences at the Zikhron Ya'aqov talks that a tripartite meeting will be held among President Yasir 'Arafat, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Alexandria tomorrow?

[Kanafani] Yes. I believe that we should view tomorrow's meeting in Alexandria within this context rather than as an attempt to apply the finishing touches to the agreement.

[Correspondent] The objective of the meeting, therefore, is to overcome the obstacles facing the implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles [DOP]?

[Kanafani] Exactly, the purpose of the meeting is to arrive at an agreement at a high level to make sure that the talks will not collapse, that they will continue, and that the negotiators are able to quickly perform their assigned tasks.

[Correspondent] It was reported yesterday that brother Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, will lead the higher negotiations committee. How true is this?

[Kanafani] What has been reported is not new. It is known that brother Abu-Mazin has been responsible for the negotiations file at the highest level for a long time. He is the head of the higher negotiations committee. As you know, this committee devises the strategy and the methods of negotiations. Brother Abu-Mazin resumed this task after he had been completely engrossed in the negotiations that led to the Oslo and other agreements. It is only that brother Abu-Mazin has returned home now. He holds meetings in Gaza with the brother president and other Palestinian officials. He is exercising his usual activities. Brother Abu-Mazin is not new to Palestinian political action. He is a historic leader of the revolution, the PLO, and the PNA. He is respected and loved by everyone. I believe that his presence in the homeland is an asset to the Palestinian diplomatic action and negotiations.

[Correspondent] I think this has also been decided by the PLO Central Council?

[Kanafani] As I said, this is an old and continuous issue. I am a supporter of the calm diplomacy with which brother Abu-Mazin handles the negotiations and political action. [passage omitted]

Paper Disparages Israel's Redeployment Tactics

JN1807123095 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Jul 95 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "Perils on the Negotiations Road"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a move to reassure the Palestinians that freedom of movement between West Bank cities will be guaranteed following the Israeli forces redeployment, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has affirmed that Palestinians will be free to move between these cities. However, the Israeli press over the past week reported that the Israeli army considers the establishment of permanent checkpoints as a costly operation, which is why the Israelis plan to establish mobile checkpoints. Thus, we return to square one. The army will have the authority to decide when and where to establish these checkpoints. For example, the army sometimes erects checkpoints a few kilometers from Jericho's entrance and bans West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians from entering the Palestinian Autonomy area of Jericho. From this premise, Peres' statement on the freedom of movement is ambiguous so long as the army is authorized to erect checkpoints on these roads as it believes fit and when it wants.

This being the case, we have to be cautious and wary and try to know what Israel's plans are. The Palestinians refuse to have Israel decide on freedom of movement. We suffered a lot over the many years of occupation from such mobile checkpoints and we had hopes that these permanent and mobile checkpoints would be removed. If Israel and its army have such prerogatives, then they will have the right to decide tomorrow whether these Palestinian cities should become islands surrounded by Israelis, or whether the Palestinians should have the freedom to move from one city to the other in their homeland. Will this be a new type of occupation and a new game with which Israel seeks to bring constant pressure to bear on the Palestinians? This will be like brandishing a club over the Palestinians' heads that will always prevent them from developing their homeland.

We bitterly ask why Israel treats us as if there is no peace agreement? Why does it tailor the negotiations to use as a means of pressure and siege? Why does Israel, within the framework of the implementation of the second stage of the peace agreement, arrogate for itself the right to keep its army in control of the roads that are the lifeline in the Palestinian territories? Israel speaks of comprehensive security and open borders. But it wants these borders open only for Israel. Does Israel believe that maintaining its superiority by force will achieve peace?

Peace agreements mean mutual concessions and the sharing of the land to enable the two peoples to live in freedom and security. How can we believe that Israel is serious in attaining these objectives if it keeps these options open, or does Israel want to keep its army as a sword brandished over the Palestinians' heads and future? Does Israel believe that the Palestinians who defied the occupation, stood fast for 28 years, offered sacrifices, and were patient in order to safeguard their right to a homeland and future would accept handing over to the future generations a homeland that is under Israeli control? Israel will be mistaken if it believes this. The Palestinians have proved over the years that their determination has not weakened and that their right to live in their country in peace and freedom is an eternal right.

We have to be very cautious and wary in our fateful battle for peace. The new Israeli plan seeks to replace positions and consolidate others outside the cities from which the Israeli forces will withdraw so that Israel will not lose any of its positions. If this takes place, then we can say we have achieved nothing.

DFLP Issues Statement on U.S. 'Plots' Against Iran

LD1607162395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], issuing a statement in Damascus, has announced that U.S. plots against Iran are the best gift for international Zionism. The statement has described the aim behind U.S. economic embargo against Iran as silencing the voice of all those opposing aggression. The statement further says that Iran is at the forefront of the countries opposing the big Satan.

People's Front [as heard] statement also notes that in order to play down Israel's nuclear might, the U.S. constantly wages propaganda war over Iran's desire to gain access to nuclear weapons.

Islamic Jihad's Shaykh Azzam Interviewed

95AA0188C Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic 19 May 95 p 6

["Exclusive" interview with Islamic Jihad Leader Shaykh Nafidh Azzam by Hasan Dawhan; place and date not given — first paragraph is AL-ISTIQLAL introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive interview with AL-ISTIQLAL, Shaykh Nafidh Azzam, a prominent Islamic leader who is close to Islamic Jihad, has asserted that the release of Shaykh al-Shami was not a part of an agreement between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Islamic Jihad. He also asserted that there is no disagreement within the movement's ranks over any of the strategic and fundamental issues. The shaykh also finds it unlikely that agreement will develop between Islamic Jihad and the PA, noting that it is impossible for Islamic Jihad to cede its constants. He said that the only way out of the current dilemma is to return to the roots and to continue on the path of struggle, jihad, and resistance.

[Dawhan] After Shaykh al-Shami was released from detention recently, a propaganda storm was kicked up regarding his statements that he was released as part of an agreement between the PA and Islamic Jihad. How do you interpret this?

[Azzam] This clamor is absolutely unjustifiable, considering that Shaykh al-Shami's release was a normal result of the fact that no charge could be proven against him. Rather, there was no justification for Shaykh al-Shami's arrest in the first place. His release was not the result of any deal or part of any agreement. Therefore, we believe that there is no justification for this clamor. The release was ordinary, and it bears no other indications.

As for the personal statements made by Shaykh al-Shami, they expressed, in part, his personal viewpoint primarily. We also believe that, in part, news agencies misinterpreted, exaggerated, and misdirected their interpretations of the statements and their indications. Shaykh al-Shami has made another statement clarifying his real position, which is not at all different from Islamic Jihad's well-known positions. We wish to stress here that there is absolutely no disagreement within the movement's ranks over any strategic or fundamental issue and that all bases and cadres adhere fully to one position all the time.

[Dawhan] In your opinion, is it possible to reach an agreement with the PA?

[Azzam] It is our opinion that such an agreement is remote now. There are major obstacles on the way to reaching it, and problems still exist. The detainees issue has not been resolved; the sentences issued by the State Security Court are still extant; and the decree banning weapons is still valid. So there are existing problems, and they are all connected with the PA. This is why we find that an agreement is still remote.

[Dawhan] Agreement between the opposition and the PA could remove the ghost of internecine fighting from the domestic Palestinian arena. What is your opinion?

[Azzam] The chances of the outbreak of a civil war in the Palestinian society are very small. This society is experiencing cohesion of a special nature. In the same home, we may find a member who belongs to Jihad, another to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and a third to Fatah. This greatly reduces the chance of the outbreak of a civil war. There is another important point, namely that we are trying resolutely to steer away from confrontation and to avoid escalation. We always try to exercise self-restraint, and we realize that there are numerous complexities. However, we move on the basis of a full appreciation of the people's interests. Any domestic internecine fighting cannot serve this interest and cannot be beneficial to any of the parties concerned, excluding the Zionists who are waiting for evil things to befall us.

[Dawhan] Assuming that an escalation that could lead to internecine fighting between the Islamists and the PA does develop, do you think the Islamic movement would be able to partially change its practical strategy?

[Azzam] Internecine fighting can never develop because of continuation of the jihad condition. Resistance and continued jihad cannot lead to civil war because all people feel that jihad action reflects their wishes and defends their rights. As for the talk about the likelihood of the movement's abandonment of its constants, it is impossible. A movement survives only by preserving its constants and principles. Jihad, for example, has gained this credibility among the Palestinian people, in the Arab and Islamic environment, and in the entire world only by remaining steadfast in its positions. Therefore, there can be no abandonment of the fundamental and basic positions.

[Dawhan] Now that a year has passed since the conclusion of the Oslo accord and of the PA's arrival in the Palestinian self-rule territories, what is your evaluation of the PA's political and civil performance?

[Azzam] It is evident that the pitfalls about which we talked when the accord was concluded have now become obvious to everybody. We said that the accord harbors destructive consequences for the Palestinians and the Arab and Islamic environment. We said that the accord will not solve the Palestinians' problems and will not alleviate their hardship. This is what everybody sees clearly now. We said that the accord will entrench the aggressive state existing in Palestine now and will give the Zionist entity a pause to expand further and to enter Arab and Islamic capitals. We said that the accord will sow the seeds of division among the Palestinian people. Some signs of this division have already surfaced despite the serious endeavors to reduce their dangers. We said that the accord grants the Zionist entity a legitimacy of which no Zionist politician could have ever dreamt throughout 50 years. This has caused us the loss of a great deal of our respect in the world. Now that a year has lapsed, we can say that the accord's drawbacks seem to be more obvious. The Zionist entity's arrogance is escalating, and the Palestinian people's hardship is growing. A state of anarchy seems to dominate most aspects of life. There is an evident decline in services. The economy suffers from major headaches, and the link to the Zionist economy compels us pay the price all the time. Blockades are imposed for reason and for no reason. There are no clear plans and specific programs to strengthen the infrastructure and to alleviate the people's hardship. There is no clear vision of what we want tomorrow or the day after. Therefore, we do not think anybody disagrees with us when we say that conditions are worsening after a year of the PA's presence in Gaza Strip.

[Dawhan] What are the alternatives you propose to overcome the current dilemma?

[Azzam] It is certain that perseverance in the jihad and resistance option is the ideal solution and the only way to surpass this ordeal. The Palestinian people's problems can never be solved on the basis of the Oslo accord, and it is absolutely impossible that the Palestinian people's hardship will end by way of the donors' money or by what the Zionist entity grants them. The only way out is for us to return to our roots and to persevere on the path of struggle, jihad, and resistance, which preserves our faith, safeguards our homeland, and gives us the opportunity to defend the nation's dignity.

[Dawhan] How do you view the Israeli Government's decision to approve the decree confiscating lands in Jerusalem?

[Azzam] This decision has not surprised us. Rather, what is more than this decision has been expected. In light of the collapse experienced by the region; of the feverish race by the Arab regimes to concludes agreements and deals with the Zionist entity; and of the governments' pursuit of U.S. satisfaction, it becomes normal that the Zionists would confiscate Jerusalem's lands and Palestinian lands anywhere. It becomes normal that they would expand their settlement construction and that the United States would consider moving its embassy to Jerusalem. All this indicates that we are living in an age of war, not of peace. They persist in their war against us and against Muslims. Consequently, no action they take is surprising. The Zionist government's decision indicates clearly that the Zionists are dealing with the opposite parties arrogantly and superciliously. This conduct cannot be ended by denunciation campaigns, by Security Council resolutions, or by the reparations proposed by the UN delegate to the United Nations.

[Dawhan] If the PA confiscates the opposition Islamic movement's weapons, what would Islamic Jihad's reaction be?

[Azzam] This is unlikely. Hamas' and Islamic Jihad's weapons are not displayed in markets or streets. We imagine that, if the PA learned of the presence of a weapon in a certain place, it would go to confiscate it. Again, this is why we find it unlikely that a problem will develop in this regard. Weapons in the hands of mujahidin are legitimate. They are a guarantee against the dangers posed by the Zionists, be they troops or settlers. We think that it is the PA's duty to understand this matter, considering that the mujahidin's weapons are used only to defend the people and to regain their right.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Talks Continue in Zikhron

Agreement Near on Elections

TA1807182495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Report by moderator Hayim Yavin followed by talk in the studio with political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yavin] An understanding is emerging in the talks with the Palestinians in Zikhron Ya'aqov on the question of the participation of residents of East Jerusalem in the elections to the Palestinian council. Candidates will have to have an address in the West Bank and the ballot boxes will be placed on Jerusalem's city limits. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that the main bone of contention currently centers on the security arrangements in Zone B, the rural area where the Palestinians demand an extensive reduction of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence.

Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman stated tonight that the signing ceremony in Washington is expected to be followed by another ceremony in Cairo to sign an accord on the questions that will remain outstanding at the time of the first ceremony.

The Israeli teams negotiating with the Palestinians informed the prime minister and the foreign minister that only a little progress has been made on the interim arrangement in the West Bank since the beginning of the week. Consequently, Shim'on Peres intends to discuss some of the disputed issues with 'Arafat in Alexandria tomorrow after the two meet with President Mubarak.

We asked our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik to come to our studio. Gadi, I understand that the talks in Zikhron Ya'aqov are stuck, mainly over the water quotas.

[Sukenik] Not just over the water quotas, and they are not stuck. They are progressing very slowly, a senior source told me tonight. This is how the situation stands: The talks in Zikhron Ya'aqov will continue until Thursday or perhaps Friday. Then the teams will leave the hotel, and either on Sunday or Monday the talks will resume in Cairo. The negotiations will apparently relocate from Zikhron Ya'aqov to Cairo at the demand of the Palestinians and the invitation of President Mubarak.

[Yavin] Meaning, all the delegations will make their way to Cairo.

[Sukenik] Everything will apparently move to Cairo next week. The chances of getting anything done next week are rather slim since 25 July falls next Tuesday. As things stand now, 'Arafat demands that some kind of ceremony be held at the White House in Washington to sign the main points of the agreement, while the remaining appendices will be signed in Cairo. Israeli officials are very wary and apprehensive about such a move and want a finalized agreement. They say they had their experience with the Gaza-Jericho agreement last year when, right there on the stage and in front of television cameras from all over the world, 'Arafat started to amend the agreement and refused to sign it. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 18 July adds: "No progress has been made in the talks in Zikhron Ya'aqov. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in a closed forum today that the talks are progressing slowly and that there is no good news from there. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that the sides have not yet reached agreement on any of the disputed points."]

25 Jul Agreement 'Ruled Out'

JN1807144995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have continued near Haifa for the third consecutive day without resolving the differences that are impeding an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

Press sources said the Israeli side insists on deferring the discussions on controlling the West Bank's water resources to the final stage of negotiations. The Israeli side proposed setting up a joint management group to search for additional water resources.

These sources added that the Israeli delegation rejected that the National Authority be in charge of security in the villages adjacent to the Green Line and in the Jewish holy places in the West Bank. They also ruled out the possibility that the Palestinian and Israeli sides would reach a final agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles before 25 July.

Algeria

FIS Leader Reportedly Killed by Armed Islamic Group

LD1807133995 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the daily LA TRIBUNE, Azzedine Baa, one of the main leaders of the Islamic Salvation Army, the armed wing of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has been killed by the rival organization, the GIA, the Armed Islamic Group.

He had been sentenced to death by an Islamic court on 12 June on moral grounds.

FFS Leader Accuses Government of 'Specious Dialogue'

AU1707133495 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 13 Jul 95 p 7

[Interview with FFS Secretary General Hocine Ait Ahmed by Cyrus Salimi; place and date not given: "Algeria's Military Conducting Specious Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salimi] There is no end to the violence in Algeria — what are the reasons?

[Ait Ahmed] Since it became independent, a military and police dictatorship has formed in my country. We are dealing with a regime that adopted the structures of the Soviet Union, ideology from the Ba'ath in the Middle East, and police practices from the South American dictatorships. But while the regimes that were based on Stalinism collapsed after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Algerian one seems to be today's model against obscurantism and the only protection against the Islamists. Yet, it has deliberately played the game of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] by allowing an election system that favors the Salvation Front and has thus been responsible for the victory of the FIS in the December 1991 elections. I think that was an intentional policy to scare the Algerians, the international public, and to pass as a modern regime. But the military were the first Islamists in our country. It is they who have declared Islam the state religion. It is they who held a vote on the medieval family laws in 1994.

[Salimi] You have been trying to find solutions again and again. What has been the reaction to the meeting of the opposition platform at the Catholic community of Sant' Egidio in Rome earlier this year?

[Ait Ahmed] The first reaction was: How can you go to Sant' Egidio; they are Christians, who treat us like crusaders.... And then came the counteroffensive: The government fixed a date for the presidential elections to slow down the dynamics of Rome; and with Madani and Belhadj it arrested FIS leaders, who signed the Sant' Egidio agreement — to prevent them from working toward a reduction of violence. The government is quite deliberately playing with the bipolarization of violence, it knows very well: If it arrests Madani, the radicals of the "Armed Islamic Group" (GIA) will gain ground.

It was not easy to unite parties whose social projects basically oppose one another in order to get the government to the negotiating table. We offered negotiations, we did not declare war. For the past three years, the FFS [Front of Socialist Forces] has kept demanding a sovereign national conference modelled on South Africa, with the army on one side and the political parties on the other. But the army did not want a dialogue, rather it produced a specious dialogue. But we first need peace to enable interim regulations.

[Salimi] Yet, talks have been taking place with the Salvation Front.

[Ait Ahmed] Before Sant' Egidio the government had the monopoly of controlling the FIS: It establishes contact, it places people under house arrest, it releases people, quite simply, as a trump to stay in power. When we asked about relations between the government and the Islamists, we were told: We will not negotiate. The following day Madani and Belhadj were placed under house arrest.

What I want to say is: We want normal and transparent relations between the FIS and the various political parties; that is why we included the FIS in Rome and took that trump away from the government. Because we fear that without a political solution the government and the Islamists could come to an agreement at the expense of society and democracy.

[Salimi] Media report say that the government also wanted to conclude an agreement with you, but you refused.

[Ait Ahmed] Let me repeat: The government is trying to maintain the impression vis-a-vis the West that it still wants a dialogue; but that is a specious dialogue. The president himself said: We reject the peace offer en bloc and en detail. Then we handed over a memorandum. They said they have examined it and want to establish contact with the FFS board. But when the signatories of Rome met in Algiers, there were raids, a number of Islamist leaders were arrested, the army sealed off the capital. As long as we do not receive a reply to the offer of dialogue by all the signatories, we will regard anything else as specious contacts.

[Salimi] Will you run for president?

[Ait Ahmed] Elections are out of the question at the moment. What can foreign observers observe if they are escorted by police? Why was President Boudiaf killed? Because the army and military police are the real power. Unless the president does exactly what they want, he will either be eliminated or executed.

Islamists Destroy Bridge Between Algiers, Tizi Ouzou

LD1807152095 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, one of the main bridges between Algiers and Tizi Ouzou was blown up during Sunday-Monday night [16-17 July] by an armed Islamist group:

The Isser bridge, which had been recently built, was one of the main gateways to Kabylie. The explosion almost entirely destroyed it. This is the fourth bridge in Kabylie to be targeted by Islamists.

Sifi's Speech to Transitional National Council Viewed

LD1707152395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There was intensive attendance of the Transitional National Council [TNC] members on the occasion of the presentation of Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, who came to the TNC headquarters accompanied by at least 15 ministers. The presentation [focused] on the results so far of the implemention a year ago of the government program. Masouad Boulatyour has this report:

[Boulatyour] How has this government been faring since it assumed power in April 1994? The prime minister answered by saying that it had carried out a difficult task of reconciling economic demands with social needs amid a pressing international financial atmosphere and a changing national political environment, all coupled with a security situation that strongly undermined the efforts that have been made. Mokdad Sifi affirmed that, despite all this, this government had succeeded in improving relations with international institutions, preventing the economy from overheating, reviving investments, building houses, and curbing inflation budget deficit.

The political situation that the country is experiencing now enjoyed a great share of the speech of the prime minister, who seemed optimistic that due to the implementation of the economic reform program during the transitional period, real hope to combat political, cultural, and economic exclusion was available to our people.

The prime minister reiterated the head of state's appeal to all Algerians to achieve the national leap to revive Algeria, which belongs to all Algerians and from which nobody can be excluded. He pointed out that national reconciliation was the inevitable condition to build a unified nation and that any political address that aimed at excluding various political sensitivities would not serve peace, democracy, or Algeria.

The prime minister went on to say that national reconciliation, which aimed at halting death, restoring joy, eliminating sadness, and allowing the people to choose its leaders and destiny, was important and possible through dialogue and respect of the sovereign right of the nation to practice free choice, and he wondered when some parties would understand that the time had come to let the people express its opinion.

Immediately after the prime minister's speech, the session was adjourned to be resumed tomorrow when the debate and questions of TNC members on the government program are expected to begin. Abdelkader Bensalah, speaker of the Transitional National Council, said that the session was adjourned because members of the council had not received reports on the government program in time to study them thoroughly.

TNC Members Discuss Government Policies, Elections

LD1807134795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Transitional National Council [TNC] started today to discuss the annual outcome of the government program. During the morning session, most of the discussions were of a political character and sometimes general. More details with the radio correspondent at TNC headquarters, Dalila Bouhanna:

[Bouhanna] Ten members of the TNC talked during the morning session. It was noted that most of their discussions were superficial, and they tended to generalize. Some of the TNC members, however, justified this on the grounds that the period allocated for them to study the over 80-page government document was short.

All discussants agreed that the security situation is improving continuously. Here we note that the document prepared by the government departments showed that over 24,000 new posts have been created within the framework of the public property and individual protection law, of which 13,000 have been allocated for the municipal guards. Furthermore, 21,000 young persons started their training for forests and beaches civil protection.

Some of the members questioned this contradiction — on the one hand, new posts are being created and on the other, a large number of workers are being laid off due to the rescheduling of public enterprises.

Regarding the presidential election, the TNC members talked about completing the legal frame for the process; however, they stressed the importance of providing a political atmosphere to make the process a success. Here we note that the government document pointed out that over 4.32 billion dinars have been allocated for the elections management and equipment. Efforts are underway to link up various departments and offices by a telephone network.

With regard to the economic side, most of the speakers focused on the need not to hasten far in the privatization process and the need to provide a financial aid for enterprises in order to revive them and break with the past practices which have led to economic deterioration. They also focused on the need to import the equipment necessary for reviving industrial production. It is worth noting here that the financial cover allocated for importing luxuries, among which is banana, reached $50 million [as heard] during the last six months, according to the government document, and it is expected not to exceed 2 percent of imports during this year.

Central Bank Director Comments on Foreign Debts

LD1607100195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The director of debts at Algeria's [Central] Bank said in a news conference held yesterday that complete transparency characterized the information on the development of Algeria's foreign debts.

The aforementioned official said that the continued fall in Algeria's foreign debt base, which amounted to $29.5 billion by 31 December 1994, had been registered over the period extending between 1990 and 1993, [in addition] to noting a significant reduction of the short-term loans, and in their relative share in the country's overall debt.

Egypt

Security Officials Arrest Muslim Brotherhood Members

NC1807185595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Security officials have arrested several members of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood [MB] organization who were plotting a terrorist act against Egypt's security and stability in coordination with Hasan al-Turabi's Islamic Front in Sudan.

A responsible security source announced this today. The source said the arrests were made last night during raids on several of the organization's dens in 16 governorates.

Also, many photos, pamphlets, and documents were seized inside the dens. The documents detailed domestic and international illegal activities. The security forces also seized computers and disks. The disks contained the organization's plans and programs. Seized video tapes held recordings of speeches by the organization's leaders.

The source said the security organs infiltrated a meeting held by the banned MB's Shura Council in one of the organization's hideouts in Cairo. The meeting was video taped and all the terrorist leaders who attended it were identified. State Security has known about the monitoring of the group since the beginning of the year.

It added that the leaders at the meeting made general plans for the upcoming phase. To help their plans to target Egypt's security and stability, they exploited channels of contact to the Islamic Front in Sudan, which is led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi.

The source revealed that information available to the State Security Intelligence Department confirmed that the leaders of the dissolved MB regularly visited the Sudanese capital to coordinate their terrorist schemes on Arab and international levels.

The security source further said as a result of their surveillance, State Security succeeded in seizing material evidence to uncover the organization's following plans and targets:

To establish new organizational structures for the dissolved MB and revive its extremist activities by seizing control of professional associations, local councils, and mosques.

To prepare provocative schemes to incite the masses according to timetables, specific actions, and by exploiting spontaneous incidents.

To develop channels to contact and give financial support to other terrorist elements in Egypt and their leaders abroad, especially in Sudan and Eritrea, as well as in Europe and the United States.

To transfer foreign currencies from the organization's leaders abroad to the leaders inside the country to continue the military training of the extremist elements abroad.

To pay particular attention to combat training.

The source added that the search of the organization's dens and centers in the various governorates resulted in finding the following:

Handwritten organizational documents and original computer printouts that included the organization's action plans and its methods of penetrating political establishments and public organizations were found. These items include the executive phase of the so-called five-year plan that the organization drafted to seize power.

Also, there was a copy of a handwritten report by one of the MB's leading figures that included the draft minutes of a meeting held by the organization's leaders abroad. During the meeting, decisions were made on the organization's ties to some Arab regimes and some Islamic organizations and societies, and the ways to deal with the division and duality, as it was called, of Islamic action on Sudan.

There were handwritten papers about an expanded meeting held in one of the organization's centers in Cairo and the organizational and security measures taken during the meeting. One report, written with the knowledge of an MB leader, noted strict security directives that forbade using the telephone to implement organizational tasks.

Papers noting al-jihad demands regarding Afghanistan were found, including its mailing address, the MB center in Cairo, 1 Suq al-Tawfiqiyah Road, Post Office Box 1626, telephone No. 742296.

Many inciting leaflets issued by the terrorist organizations, the Islamic Group and al-Jihad, were found, in addition to organizational documents on the objectives of the above-mentioned organizations, namely, a book on the Islamic operational charter by fugitive terrorist leader 'Umar Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is in the United States.

Also discovered were papers and handwritten documents that give instructions by the MB's Guidance Bureau to the organization's branches in the governorates. The most important of these regulates the issuance of inciting leaflets, the holding of meetings, and meeting security.

There were also official bank statements detailing large bank accounts in local and foreign currencies, in addition to Egyptian and American cash, profit statements of some MB media establishments, letters on money transactions with Faysal Islamic Bank and other local banks, ledgers listing donations to MB charities, receipts belonging to the Humanitarian Relief Organization of the Doctors Syndicate, and papers explaining the MB's relation with one of the liquidated capital investment companies.

Moreover, a lot of MB printed material prepared for distribution was seized, in addition to books on MB principles and arts and many MB bulletins and inciting leaflets.

Photographs showing non-Egyptian terrorists receiving training in various weapons—mortars, automatic weapons, revolvers, and hand grenades—were found in the organizational headquarters of an MB leader in al-Qalyubiyah. He had been sent on a mission by the MB to the United States to participate in an expanded meeting of the MB's leaders abroad.

Also found was a document concerning the preparation of the MB cadres for underground activity and determining the responsibilities and tasks of these cadres in accordance with a phased plan and a cultural and practical education course, in addition to a work plan for the MB women.

Also found were copies of letters that had been exchanged between MB leaders and those in charge of the so-called Muslim Youth Association in the United States, an organized MB entity with centers abroad. Some MB leaders from Egypt are currently taking part in the meetings.

Papers, publications, and emblems belonging to the humanitarian relief committee, the Islamic Educational Association, and the Islamic Society were discovered, in addition to propaganda showing the MB's candidates in previous parliamentary and municipal elections and several editions of AL-DA'WAH, the MB's foreign mouthpiece.

Also found were several sophisticated computers and diskettes holding the MB's programs and plans in various political and popular sectors, in addition to large numbers of video and audio cassettes. Recorded on the cassettes were inciting speeches by several MB leaders during meetings in several governorates.

The Higher State Security Prosecution is currently interrogating the apprehended MB terrorists under the supervision of the attorney general, after being referred to General Prosecutor Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi.

[Paris AFP in English at 1720 GMT on 18 July reports the following: "Moslem Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi said at least 17 were arrested, adding that the accusations were 'nonsense, no one can believe them.'

"A Brotherhood communique listing the arrested included Shaykh Sayyid 'Aska, the information director at al-Azhar, Sunni Islam's highest institution and officially a government agency.

"It also listed a former deputy industry minister, three former parliament members and several high-ranking members of the doctors', teachers' and engineering unions.

"Al-Hudaybi said Brotherhood lawyers who met with investigators denied that any mention of Sudan was made in the accusations against the arrested, adding that the supposed links to al-Turabi were 'a blatant lie.'"]

Iran Denies Naval, Military Presence in Sudan

NC1807115695 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Jul 95 pp 1, 8

[FBIS Translated Text] The bureau in charge of the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Cairo has denied a report AL-WAFD published yesterday on the presence of eight Iranian naval units off Port Sudan in addition to minesweepers and Iranian soldiers in the area of Haya. The bureau said these allegations are untrue.

A statement the bureau issued yesterday said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, relying on its Islamic principles, believes that:

First, the Islamic nation has suffered much from disputes, discord, and a waste of energy, which unfortunately affected its world role. This requires prudent handling of developments, particularly in connection with disputes among Islamic states to resolve them peacefully.

Second, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Sudan are among the most important Arab and Islamic states and have a significant role in the Arab and Muslim world. We wish both peoples prosperity and progress.

Third, we fully trust that the farsightedness of both the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Sudan will solve the existing problems peacefully and in the interests of both the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, as well as the Islamic nation.

I.D.'s, Voter Registration for Hala'ib Inhabitants

NC1907101295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0925 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Major General Ibrahim Busaylah, assistant interior minister and director of the Population Registry Department, announced today that registry offices in the Hala'ib region are carrying out their tasks and issuing dozens of identity cards daily for Egyptian citizens.

Maj. Gen. Busaylah added that registry offices in the Hala'ib region are subject to all administrative orders like similar offices in the various Egyptian governorates.

He explained that these offices will adopt modern methods in issuing identity cards, birth, death, and marriage certificates, and any other personal documents requested by the region's Egyptian inhabitants.

Maj. Gen. Muhammad Budayr, assistant interior minister and the official supervising elections in the Hala'ib region has announced that this region is considered one of the Red Sea Governorate's constituencies and is subject to the measures applied in other constituencies. He said that many Egyptian citizens in Hala'ib are registered voters and that many more are registering daily. He explained that any new measures or instructions pertaining to the elections will include Hala'ib in the Red Sea Governorate.

Water Convoys Resumed

NC1807142295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1355 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 18 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese Government today commended the Egyptian move to begin water convoys to Hala'ib.

'Awad-al-Karim Fadlallah, first under secretary of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, stated today that the Egyptian move is positive, commendable, and a good gesture.

Water convoys to Hala'ib had recently stopped due to tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Musa Accuses West of Not Helping in Bosnia

NC1807163095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1530 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali left Cairo this afternoon following a one-hour visit during which he met Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

After seeing Dr. Butrus-Ghali off, Musa said he told the UN secretary general that he sent a message on Bosnia to the Security Council chairman this morning voicing Egypt's strong protests over the failure to take measures vis-a-vis Bosnia to protect the Bosnian people and ensure this state's rights. He also protested the humiliation of the UN forces.

He added: I called for the immediate lifting of the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia so that its people can defend itself. [passage omitted]

Asked about some major powers' bias toward the Serbs, the hesitation of others, and the lack of interest in punishing the perpetrators of the crime of ethnic cleansing, Musa stressed the need to act quickly, saying: We will ask for this during the meeting of the Islamic contact group. Noting that the Security Council knows this, he said we will demand that the Bosnian people be allowed to defend itself. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister went on to say it is important that the Bosnian people be allowed to defend itself against all-out aggression by the Serbs and it is clear from the Serbian attack and the circumstances accompanying it that the Serbs benefited from the embargo imposed on Bosnia to achieve the successes they have achieved.

Musa added: We are seeing genocide with our own eyes and ethnic cleansing of Muslims and we cannot remain silent. The world must not ignore this.

Asked whether the U.S. presence in Bosnia could stop this operation, Musa said the important thing is that the UN forces must first be equipped so that they can confront the Serbs or NATO should be empowered to intervene.

He added: The Bosnian people must be allowed to defend itself, because we cannot tie their hands, put the UN forces in this position, and not allow the NATO forces to act and therefore let everything collapse and allow the Serbs to impose their control so easily.

Asked whether Egypt has received any response from the permanent Security Council members the ambassadors of which were summoned yesterday, Musa said: It is evident that no one can act and there are European divisions. Germany has demanded that the UN peace plan be adhered to as long as there is a hint of European opposition to commitment to the peace plan. Describing the division as regrettable, he said there is confusion, inaccuracy, and a cover-up. All these have harmed the search for solutions to these problems. He added that ethnic cleansing, genocide, and religious intolerance are crimes against Bosnia. The world is not objecting to them as it should and is not taking the necessary measures. We will raise this at the meeting of the Islamic Contact Group. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Islamic countries' stance on this crisis, Musa said that neither the Islamic nor the other countries have shouldered their responsibilities on this issue. But we cannot blame the Islamic countries as much as Europe and the Western powers that have the resources and the ability to influence events in Bosnia. He added that these powers have not used their abilities, resources, strength, or political influence in the right direction.

Sends Message to Security Council

NC1807181395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1445 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Egypt has held the Security Council responsible for the current bloody events in Bosnia. Egypt has called on the Security Council to adopt effective measures to end the dangerous and illegal situation in the safe areas, to make the attacking forces withdraw from these areas, and to stop the Serbs' advance on them.

Egypt also called on the Security Council to adopt a candid, objective position on Bosnia. It called on the council to reconsider the continuation of the arms embargo on the Bosnian people so that they may exercise their legitimate right to self-defense, and to end the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian aid for the Bosnian people.

In a message sent by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to the Security Council, Egypt said the failure to fully implement the Council's resolutions led the brutal Serbian attacks on the safe areas to continue. It also left the people to be subject to the policy of ethnic cleansing.

The message emphasized that the fall of the safe areas, despite the Council's guarantees, makes the international organization lose its credibility in keeping world peace and security.

The message is as follows:

President of the Security Council, greetings:

Regarding the current bloody events in Bosnia, which go beyond the bounds that human conscience can accept, I make the following points. The Egyptian Government believes that the Security Council, respecting its entrusted responsibilities under the provisions of the UN Charter, is obligated to consider these points seriously and urgently so that immediate and practical measures can be implemented to halt this deteriorating situation. The situation causes developments that require us to cooperate so that grave repercussions and consequences do not occur.

1. Noncommitment to full implementation of the Security Council resolutions and to ensuring that these resolutions are immediately and fairly implemented has led to the continuation of the brutal Serbian attacks on the safe areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It also left the residents of these areas subjected to the odious policy of ethnic cleansing, in addition to humiliating the dignity of the United Nations and the peacekeeping forces that carry its flag;

2. Protecting the safe areas in Bosnia is the Council's direct responsibility under Resolution 836/1993, which

clearly stipulates the expansion of the UN protection forces' mandate in former Yugoslavia to protect these areas. But the organization did not give these forces the necessary personnel and equipment to carry out their mission completely, despite the readiness shown by numerous UN member countries, including Egypt, for this;

3. The fall of the safe areas in Bosnia in this manner, despite the guarantees established by the Council, causes the international organization lose its credibility in keeping world peace and security. The Security Council must immediately initiate effective measures under Chapter 7 of the charter to put an end to the dangerous and illegal situation in these areas and to secure the complete withdrawal of the aggressor forces from these areas. It also must work for the safe return of the displaced civilians and compensation for the damage inflicted on them.

4. The Council is also obliged to immediately stop the Serbian advance on these areas and provide the necessary protection for the UN forces in Bosnia. They must be able to carry out their duties in the best and most effective way; and

5. The international community's failure to provide protection for the Bosnian people; halt the policy of ethnic cleansing, a war crime and crime against humanity; and stop the deliberate obstruction of the passage of humanitarian aid requires us to reconsider the continuation of the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia to allow Bosnians to to exercise their legitimate right to defend themselves.

We call upon the Security Council under your presidency to adopt a candid, objective position on the developments in Bosnia. I am confident that a serious commitment by your council to assume the current deteriorating situation will open the door again to restoring the lost effectiveness of the international organization and the Security Council resolutions on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Al-Azhar Shaykh Calls For Halt to Serb Assaults

NC1807154195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1417 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq of al-Azhar today called on international organizations to adopt immediate measures to halt Serbian aggression against Bosnia and work for the withdrawal of the attacking forces from the territories and the repatriation of the displaced. He also called for lifting the Bosnian arms embargo to allow Bosnians to exercise their legitimate right of self-defense.

In a statement today, Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq regretted and deplored Serbian action in Bosnia as well as the events in eastern and Islamic countries, such as domestic upheaval and the attempts by some governments to burden their neighbors with futile and trivial issues.

In his statement, al-Azhar's shaykh proposed calling a special UN General Assembly session to discuss the aggression against Bosnia and adopt an international position to halt the massacres so that history will not record another crusader campaign.

He also called on the Islamic world to pray inabsentia in mosques after next Friday's prayers to ask for mercy for the martyrs and to support the mujahidin so that they will have, with God's help, the resolve and power to defeat the gangs.

Paper Views Bosnia 'Tragedy,' UN 'Disgrace'

NC1907072195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2040 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has stated that the Bosnian people's tragedy will remain a mark of disgrace on the face of the United Nations and the group of countries that claim to be civilized. The paper added that these countries are not ashamed as they enter a new century, their hands stained with the blood of a small nation that is the victim of the conspiracy of premeditated murder.

In its editorial tomorrow the paper says all the developments accompanying the Bosnian massacres and the conflicting stances "that are most likely agreed upon in advance" reveal a plot by people who have reached the peak of hypocrisy in international politics.

Despite their disagreement on some issues, the paper adds, they all agreed not to let weapons reach the Bosnian forces while allowing the most modern weapons to flow to the forces of oppression and aggression.

AL-AKHBAR describers this as utter international lowness, because it prevents the victim from any attempt to resist his murderer.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that after this no one can blame any party if it tries to smuggle arms to the Bosnian Muslim people to resist the Serbian tartar forces, unleashed as the cat's paw to achieve mean aims.

Columnist Urges Lifting of Sanctions on Iraq

NC1907095395 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 2

[Comment by Ahmad Hasan: "The Years of Embargo"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Five lean years have passed and yet there is no hope that the unjust embargo imposed on the Iraqi people by the superpowers under the UN banner will be lifted. The embargo was imposed to punish the Iraqi people for a crime committed by their so-called ruler hero. These five years should be enough to remove all the masks and suspicious excuses used to maintain the embargo to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime.

A quick glance at the effects of the economic sanctions confirms that the embargo has not affected the regime, but has only affected the Iraqi people and other Arabs provided with the means of subsistence in Iraq. UN documents are replete with bitter and shocking information. They say 23 percent of Iraq's children under the age of five are suffering from malnutrition. They add that disease and epidemics, such as malaria and tuberculosis, have caused the deaths of well over 1 million Iraqi children. [passage omitted]

All these indications demonstrate that the sanctions have deviated from their declared objective, the overthrow of the regime. This objective has instead been used as a means to strangle the people and weaken their ability to resist by creating a daily fight against the burdens of life instead of focusing on methods to oust the ruling regime. The sanctions have become a whip in the hands of the regime to terrorize the people and a sword to chop off the heads of those who protest.

Since Saddam Husayn's regime has made Iraq a terrifying police state, which has destroyed every rebellion, it has become impossible to get rid of this regime through revolution. This was confirmed by a Western diplomat in Baghdad when he said that every attempt to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime is a dead embryo in the womb of an unborn revolution.

Given all these facts, the continuous embargo could be called a plot in view of the similarity of the objectives of Saddam and those advocating the continuing sanctions against him.

Musa Meets With UN Secretary General

NC1807122095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this afternoon met UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali during the latter's stopover in Cairo en route from Rwanda to Geneva.

Mubarak Receives Israel's Peres in Alexandria

NC1907103595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak has held a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Ra's al- Tin Palace in Alexandria. Peres arrived in the city at noon today.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also attended the meeting.

President Mubarak conducted similar talks this morning with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who also arrived in Alexandria today.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Ahmad Quray', the official in charge of the economy in the Palestinian Authority, attended the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting.

'Arafat Arrives in Egypt for Talks With Mubarak, Peres

JN1907094195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Egypt a short while ago. He will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Alexandria to discuss the obstacles to reaching an agreement on the implementation of the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Economy and Trade Minister Ahmad Quray' and President 'Arafat's Press Adviser Marwan Kanafani accompany President 'Arafat on the visit. Kanafani said the gap is still wide between the Palestinian and Israeli stands.

The meeting is part of Egyptian efforts to approximate viewpoints and to bridge the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, particularly with the approach of 25 July, the date for signing the agreement.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Asked To Mediate Sudan-Egypt Dispute

LD1807215995 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received the personal envoy of Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, who delivered to him a written message from the latter.

The envoy expressed the unanimous opinion to ask the brother leader, based on his Pan-Arab role, to intervene to bridge the rift between the brothers in Egypt and Sudan.

The envoy added that the Sudanese Government played no part in the painful incident to which president Husni Mubarak was subjected in Addis Ababa last month, and that it regrets it and thanks God for his safety. He added: I stress that the Sudanese Government has no connection with terrorism and it totally rejects the method of assassination, which it considers as a terrorist act which should be condemned at all levels.

Banghazi Events Prompt Political Debate

MM1807153795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
18 Jul 95 p 6

[Report by Muhammad al-Ashhab: "Diplomatic Sources Talk of Expanding Tendency Opposed to Military"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat — Diplomatic sources have stressed to AL-HAYAH that a large-scale political debate has begun in the Libyan Jamahiriyah since the Banghazi incidents. Representatives of the General People's Congresses, influential tribesmen, and members of the military organ are taking part.

The sources added that the debate, the first of its kind, is focusing on drawing up several formulas to develop the mechanisms of government so as to suit the existing structure and to try to answer current questions, first and foremost: Can the regime open up further in order to circumvent Western campaigns and secure a gradual transfer of power? And what is the effect of that opening up — if it takes place — on the regime's future?

The sources said that hardliners put forward ideas warning of the consequences of an open-door policy similar to that of Algeria or Egypt. They cited as evidence the increasing extremism and violence. The points of agreement in the debate, in which influential figures participated, focused on introducing various changes to the regime's structures in terms of government and dialogue methods in the People's Congresses, proposing that the military relinquish control of government mechanisms in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and that it should be allocated a traditional role.

The sources said that a tendency — emerging powerfully — is opposed to the military establishment and the control of the institutions by what is left of the Revolution Command Council. Tribal notables have urged learning from the People's Congresses experiment and developing them so as to become means of running the collective dialogue. As a proof, they said that Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud's removal from political decisionmaking centers has not affected the influence his tribe (al-Maqarihah) is enjoying in political decisionmaking centers — which means opening the door to new influential elements to assume responsibility without undermining the foundations of the regime, which should always take account of the balances.

The sources added that several circles see Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's moral role as a helping factor for moving the Libyan experiment to new horizons, especially after the People's Congresses experiment accentuated the possibility of reexamining some of the decisions taken by the Libyan leader, as happened with regard to the demolition of the border between Tunisia and Libya a few years ago. The congresses repaired these borders and built new centers [checkpoints] after a dialogue between al-Qadhdhafi and influential figures in the People's Congresses.

Similar developments took place in the debates concerning education and social issues. The sources pointed out that the prevalent tendency in Libya is to confront foreign pressures on the Jamahiriyah by introducing changes to government methods, but within the general framework of the experiment.

Influential friends of Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, first and foremost leaders of Maghreb states, advised him to exploit the international openness and the collapse of the Eastern camp to make fundamental changes to the regime's structure and decisionmaking mechanisms. The sources expected the recent Banghazi incidents and the African alliance states' concerns over the growing extremism to affect the political debate taking place in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Those interested in developments in the situation in Libya likened these incidents to the troubles experienced by Iraq recently and the growing popular discontent among the influential tribes on which the regime relies for its survival and domination.

Meanwhile, the sources expected the position on the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Jamahiriyah to be among the international issues that President Jacques Chirac is going to discuss with King Hassan II of Morocco during his visit to Rabat, scheduled for tomorrow. Conditions in North Africa will also be discussed, including the security situation in Algeria, the effect of the continuation of the international embargo imposed on Libya, and a solution to the Lockerbie crisis. The Moroccan monarch warned during his recent visit to Washington and his meeting with President Bill Clinton about the danger of the continuation of the embargo imposed on the Libyan and Iraq peoples.

Morocco

Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives in Rabat

LD1607135895 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi foreign minister and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's special envoy to His Majesty King Hassan II, arrived at noon today in Morocco. [passage omitted]

Filali on Need to End 'This Conflict Situation'

BR1807133395 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 15 Jul 95 p 43

[Interview with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali by unidentified SER Network correspondent on 14 July; place not given: "We Must Work Together To Preserve Fishing Resources"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [SER] Relations between Spain and Morocco are going through a difficult stage. What are the main hurdles?

[Filali] The fishing issue is the key problem today. I believe we can reach a solution, but we must work together with a view to the future because the existing situation today is not a healthy situation. Fishing does not offer unlimited possibilities. To preserve resources, we must work together. This is the problem.

[SER] Following your visit to Brussels last week, the European Commission is expecting Morocco to set a date for the new round of negotiations. What date might you suggest?

[Filali] Well, with regard to the date, I have just received a message from Brussels according to which [EU Fisheries Commissioner] Mrs. Bonino wishes to meet our ambassador within the next few hours. I believe she has some good news for him, I hope negotiations will start next week.

[SER] For some weeks now, Moroccan products have come under attack. What is your message to the fishermen?

[Filali] I believe it is not in their interest to carry on doing what they have been doing for over two months, and it is not in Spain's interests either, because southern Spain needs economic development, economic relations with Morocco. We must put an end to this conflict situation and reach an understanding. Otherwise, Spanish fishermen will be the losers rather than the winners.

[SER] Might Morocco allow the trawlers to carry on fishing provisionally while the negotiations are under way?

[Filali] This cannot be done because there is an agreement with the EU. Brussels cannot allow this.

[SER] According to Morocco, what must be the new annual quota for catches in Moroccan waters?

[Filali] We must negotiate it. It is not a question of Morocco saying it wants a given quota, for example, 80 percent for Moroccans and 20 percent for Europeans. We must negotiate because there are many different aspects to the fishing issue — the financial question, the question of knowing where the catches go. To Spain? To Portugal? Will some of the catch be brought to Morocco before being shipped out again? All these aspects must be tackled.

[SER] Was it easier to do so when fishing agreements were negotiated bilaterally?

[Filali] The situation is now different because at that time the fishing sector did not exist in Morocco. Today we have a very important fishing sector, which has given rise to a number of industries. The situation has changed, and it has done so at a time when resources are not as plentiful as they were in the past.

[SER] Just to dispel any possible doubts, is Morocco not using the fishing agreement to put pressure on Spain over Ceuta and Melilla?

[Filali] No, not at all.

Democratic Labor Confederation To Boycott Elections

LD1107143695 Rabat MAP in English 1255 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul 11 (MAP) — The Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT/close to the Socialist Union of Popular Forces) decided to boycott the legislative by-elections of wage-earners representatives due this July 14 to fill vacant seats at the parliament.

The CDT Executive Bureau said the decision follows the appeal the Confederation submitted to the Casablanca first instance court against a list presented by the Moroccan Labor Union (UMT) which does not respect the legal provisions and which includes candidates not entitled to vie for elections.

The CDT Executive Bureau thus decided not to participate in the elections and urged all militants to boycott them.

The elections are meant to fill a vacant seat at the House of Representatives following the cancellation of the election of Mohamed Abderrazak by the Constitutional Council.

Sudan

Al-Turabi on Islamic Movement, Ties With Egypt

BR1807140195 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 16 Jul 95 p 6

[Interview with Islamic leader Hasan al-Turabi by Tomas Alcaverro in Khartoum; date not given: "Al-Turabi: 'Now That Socialism Has Disappeared There Is a Great Void That Only Islam Can Fill'" — first paragraph is LA VANGUARDIA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the wake of the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Ethiopia, Cairo's blaming of Sudan only served to increase the tension that exists between the two states on the Nile. The Sudanese regime, which recently celebrated its sixth anniversary in power, has its own real strong man in Hasan al-Turabi, the Islamic leader and one of the highest-profile Muslim leaders in the world. It is said that al-Turabi inspires much of the terrorist action of Islamic fundamentalist groups in the countries of the Maghreb and the Middle East. Al-Turabi agreed to be interviewed by LA VANGUARDIA's special correspondent at his residence on the outskirts of Khartoum.

[Alcaverro] Doctor Hasan al-Turabi, why do you think the United States wants to isolate Sudan?

[Al-Turabi] It has nothing to do with purported terrorist acts, nor with human rights violations (which are currently all the rage in Saudi Arabia and Egypt), nor with the military government (which is common throughout the world). There are Christian and Zionist fundamentalist pressure groups that do not accept that the Islam in Sudan has turned into an independent force that is present throughout public life and the economy, as well as private life, the family, and the arts. They do not want the Sudanese example to influence other nations.

[Alcaverro] Sudan's Islamic regime does not resemble other regimes such as the regime in Iran. What are its specific characteristics?

[Al-Turabi] Above all it is the fruit of evolution. It did not come about through a revolution, with a dogma opposed to an enemy from within or abroad. Revolutions, like the ones that took place in France and the Soviet Union, are destructive and they lead to reigns of terror. We want to foster religious energy to develop our agriculture and industry. What we aspire to is a minimum of social justice, but not Soviet-style socialism or capitalism. Female emancipation is a fait accompli in Sudan. We have women ministers, judges, and public functionaries. It is an evolution looking to gradually apply the values of Islam. [passage omitted]

[Alcaverro] Why does Sudan want to be at the fore of the Islamic movement? Does it have sufficient resources to achieve this?

[Al-Turabi] We are an open country. There are no natural frontiers with our neighbors, only colonial borders. Sudan is a microcosm of Africa. We are home to hundreds of thousands of refugees from Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Chad. We do not have the material resources of European colonialism but we can set an example that will inspire everyone.

[Alcaverro] Is there an Islamic international?

[Al-Turabi] Yes there is. Here, at the seat of this Arabic and Islamic People's Conference in Khartoum, we have muslims from all over the world, from Africa, the Middle East, Europe, America, and Japan. We have very good links with the Islamists in Tunis. We have advised Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front to devise a political, economic, and international relations program. It is a shame that the democratic route to power was blocked off to them.

[Alcaverro] Do you believe, as has been written in the United States, that we are currently seeing the start of a war of civilizations?

[Al-Turabi] That depends. What we have to do is talk to each other, cooperate, exchange our ideas, and trade. What we cannot have is a monopoly of power, wealth, and culture.

[Alcaverro] What are your relations with Egypt, whose president sees you as his "whipping boy" for all his domestic problems?

[Al-Turabi] In the past Sudan was an Egyptian colony. Today its potential wealth and its position at the head of the Islamic movement are eclipsing the state of Egypt that had been the principal nation of Islam. When President Mubarak accuses me of plotting to assassinate him and says that it had nothing to do with the Sudanese head of state he is simply trying to set us against each other and cause a rift between us.

[Alcaverro] What is the future of the Islamic movement in Arab countries?

[Al-Turabi] Everywhere, in Egypt, across North Africa, and in Iraq this religious energy is developing very strongly. Now that Socialism has disappeared there is a great void that only Islam can fill. We are currently witnessing the flourishing renewal of Islam.

Egypt Said To Find Mosad Link in Mubarak Attack

EA1807211095 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 17 July (SUNA) — The Egyptian Government is convinced of Sudan's disconnection with the assassination attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak, said THE EGYPTIAN ARAB newspaper.

The Egyptian investigation team may have found a clue accusing the involvement of the Israeli Mosad in the plot, the paper quoted. [The] U.S. therefore worked on veiling the findings and advised that the de facto plotters not to be convicted, the paper added.

The paper alluded to the split among the so-called National Democratic Allegiance.

Minister Notes Lifting of Water Restrictions

EA1807195195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, was briefed by the foreign minister in his Republican Palace office today on the outcome of his Gulf tour and latest developments affecting the situation in Hala'ib. Mr. 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha stressed that Sudan's stand on recent developments in its relations with Egypt was well understood by these countries. He expressed satisfaction that the crisis was easing in that the Egyptian authorities had lifted restrictions on water supplies in Hala'ib. He stressed that contacts and consultations with the Arab brothers on containing the crisis were continuing.

ICRC Asked To Locate Missing Policemen in Egypt

EA1807204495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has delivered to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] representative in Khartoum an official memorandum asking it to intervene with the Egyptian regime's authorities to ascertain the whereabouts of three policemen detained by the Egyptian authorities, undertake to visit them, confirm their safety, and arrange for their immediate return to Sudan.

The Foreign Ministry made it clear to the ICRC representative that the policemen were attacked at Abu-Ramad police station in the Hala'ib region. Although they were wounded, they were led forcibly to Egyptian territory on the 27 June. The Egyptian authorities have refused to allow a representative of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo to visit them.

Egyptian Involved in Southern Movement Alleged

EA1807210695 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 18 July (SUNA) — Higher Peace Council secretary general Lino Rol Deng has said that if Mubarak's regime continues with its provocative activities against Sudan, and its terrorist practices against members of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo, we shall have to ask the Federal Government to review the deployment of Egyptian irrigation personnel in southern Sudan. He said that there could be over 50 Egyptian irrigation workers in Malakal alone, and that the south had played host to them for over 50 years.

In a statement to SUNA, he said that the Federal Government [words indistinct] the southern states have the freedom to play host to whoever they want. As the Egyptian president is dealing with John Garang, he must be regarded as a traitor to the sons of the south, since the rebel movement represents no more than 1 percent of the south's citizens.

He said that the south is capable of protecting its territory, and confirmed that the internal front is cohesive. He said the Egyptian president must not exploit Sudan's respect for the people of Egypt, and that last week John Garang announced in Cairo that they had formed a new brigade. This is an indication of the Egyptian regime's involvement in these actions.

Further Reportage on Wounded Italian Doctor

Doctor Released to Ambassador

EA1807194795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Italian doctor, Dr. Giuseppe Meo, was handed over to the Italian ambassador at the Foreign Ministry in Khartoum today. The occasion was witnessed by the Foreign Ministry's first undersecretary, the director of the political department, and members of the Italian Embassy in Khartoum.

At a press conference convened today, the director of the Foreign Ministry's political department announced that the ministry had issued a statement indicating that the Sudanese Government had arrested Dr. Guiseppe and his Sudanese colleague, Dr. Hashim Ziyadah, in the Paryang area because Dr. Meo had entered Sudan without a visa and the involvement of the two and the Italian organization they work for, CCM [Medical Cooperation Committee], with the rebel movement.

The statement said that what the two had done was punishable under Sudanese law. The statement said the Sudanese Government had sought to evacuate Dr. Meo and his colleague from the Paryang area under an agreement with the United Nations. An aircraft was accordingly sent for this purpose, but, as usual, the rebel movement violated the agreement with the United Nations and hijacked the aircraft and its five passengers and held them hostage in the Chukudum area.

The statement said the Italian doctor was being released in the context of the excellent historical relations linking Sudan and the Italian people and government. The release of the Sudanese doctor was under the terms on the general amnesty declared by the president of the Republic.

The statement called on the international community to pressure the terrorist rebel movement to release the five hostages.

Speaking during the press conference, the Italian ambassador in Khartoum praised the relations between Sudan and Italy and thanked the Sudanese Government for the kindly manner in which the Italian doctor was treated. He said he would help to obtain the release of the five hostages by the rebel movement.

Italian Embassy Issues Statement

EA1807191895 Nairobi KNA in English
1412 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, 18 July (KNA) — The Italian Embassy in Nairobi has issued the following statement:

"The Italian Government expresses its appreciation to the Government of Sudan for the release of Dr. Guiseppe Meo. The physician was arrested on 29 May by Sudanese Government troops in Paryang, where he was rendering humanitarian assistance to the local population in the context of a programme carried out by an Italian NGO [nongovernmental organization].

"The Italian Government regrets that after several proposals and appeals from the international community, the leaders of the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] have felt unable to express their consent to the liberation of the five persons detained by SPLA since 7th June when the UN aircraft on which they were flying was forcibly made to land in Chukudum. The Government of Italy appeals once again to the SPLA to release without further delay all the persons detained in Chukudum. The Italian Government fully supports the efforts being made by the United Nations, the International Red Cross and friendly governments to this end.

"The critical conditions of the population in the south of Sudan requires the full cooperation of all the parties concerned. International aid efforts and Italian participation in them will be greatly hampered by events such as the detention of the passengers of a UN plane," the statement concluded.

Agreements, Relations With Iran Reviewed

95AF0099A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic
28 Apr 95 pp 26-29

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit Ahmad Hazim—the false name of an Israeli journalist—paid to Khartoum in the middle of last month has caused cracks in the wall of Sudanese-Iranian relations. On the evening of 23 March, Israeli television carried an interview with a journalist who said that he visited Khartoum and met with a number of officials, including Dr. Hasan al-Turabi [leader of the National Islamic Front]. The interview reflected the suffering experienced by the Sudanese people. The program included video clips of southern Sudan showing the Sudanese people's suffering from disease and starvation. Following this Israeli program, the Iranian Foreign Ministry submitted a strongly worded protest to the regime in Khartoum and requested to know how this Israeli journalist was able to enter the country and meet with its officials. It also inquired about the role of the Sudanese Culture and Information Ministry's foreign information bureau in identifying foreign correspondents.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry was not satisfied with the explanation given by the officials in Khartoum, but Iran seized this opportunity to extend more support to fundamentalist work in Sudan and the African continent. 'Ali Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, paid a visit to Khartoum. The visit has raised a number of questions because of its timing and connection with more than one issue:

1. The visit took place following the conclusion of the third fundamentalist extremism conference, which was held at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum.

2. The visit is regarded as the largest of its kind. The Iranian delegation included 73 strategic and political experts and a number of ministers.
3. The visit took place at a time when the Tehran rulers realized that the security structure of their Khartoum ally is weak and can be easily penetrated, thus exposing Iran's back in Africa.

The visit was important for these reasons. Nateq-Nuri, a hard-line leader in the mullas' regime, met with senior Sudanese officials. The official press in Khartoum and Tehran said that this visit took place within the framework of coordination between the two countries' legislative assemblies. The press described it as an ordinary visit without giving more detail.

Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo, however, said that the visit was extremely important for the two sides. It was designed to promote their attempts to export the revolution and promote contacts with eastern and central Africa. The sources said that Nateq-Nuri met with leaders of the fundamentalist extremism in Sudan, including Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi; Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, first deputy of al-Turabi in the leadership of the Islamic fundamentalism movement in the world; Ibrahim al-Sanusi, assistant secretary general of the Islamic People's Congress; and Interior Minister al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr or al-Tayyib Sikhah. They gave him this last name while he was studying medicine at Khartoum University because he was known for his quick temper and blind fanaticism, which made him use canes and iron bars to decide intellectual and political disagreements—proof of the man's intransigence and extremism.

The sources said that ministers and military officers from the general staff of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard were in the delegation that held talks with senior Sudanese Army officers on matters pertaining to regional and international strategies, particularly in the Red Sea area. The popular defense command also held several meetings with Iranian Revolutionary Guard activists. The visiting delegation toured various training centers around Khartoum.

Faruq Abu-'Isa, secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Federation and member of the opposition Sudanese National Grouping, has warned against the dangers of the agreements, which he said the Sudanese Government has signed with Iran. He said they constituted a strategic military alliance between the two countries.

Abu-'Isa said these agreements represent a serious development. They would enable Iranian fleets to move in the Red Sea, threatening the security and peace in the area. They would also strengthen the capabilities of the coercion machine in Sudan.

Observers have noted that the agreements, signed in Khartoum, granted Iran military and naval privileges at existing facilities in Port Sudan and Sawakin in eastern Sudan. Observers said that the agreements provided for the establishment of a joint intelligence committee to exchange information, expertise, and capabilities and confront the enemies and opposers of the Khartoum regime.

The Democratic Unionist Party has issued a press statement, which it distributed to the news agencies and newspapers in Cairo, denouncing the agreements signed between the two countries. Sounding the alarm about the danger of these agreements, the Unionist Party said that they are designed to establish control over the Red Sea, place obstacles in the way of any attempt to establish peace in the Middle East, undermine security and stability in the area, and escalate the war in southern Sudan.

The Tripoli Declaration, agreed upon in Libya between high-level delegations from Sudan and Uganda, has become invalid after tension developed between the two countries. This tension led the two neighbors to break off their diplomatic relations last week.

In a surprise development, the Ugandan authorities have ordered Sudanese Diplomat 'Awad Muhammad Hasan to leave the country within 48 hours, accusing him of activity unbecoming of his diplomatic status. Khartoum responded with a similar measure and expelled a counselor at the Ugandan Embassy in Khartoum. Observers of Sudanese affairs say that Diplomat Hasan had suspect contacts with Ugandan opposition groups, which use southern Sudan as a staging post for their attacks against the forces of Yoweri Museveni in northern Uganda. In particular, the Sudanese diplomat maintained close relations with the Kuni group, which is opposed to the Kampala regime.

Sudanese opposition sources said that the opposition Kuni forces maintain camps inside Sudanese territory, on the border with Uganda, about 180 km south of Kapoeta, which the Khartoum forces earlier regained from the Sudanese Popular Liberation Army [SPLA]. The sources said that members of the popular defense forces extend military assistance and support to the Kuni forces, and that members occasionally participate in military operations carried out by these forces in northern Uganda. Although these sources were surprised by the Islamists' support for Christian forces in a conflict that does not affect them, they noted that the purpose justifies the means in the ideology of the Al-Turabi supporters.

Two weeks after the fundamentalist extremism conference was held in Khartoum, 31 March to 4 April, the conference secretariat began establishing its extremist terrorist institutions in several capitals and cities in eastern, western, and central Africa in the form of coordination and follow-up offices.

The secretariat needed to train fundamentalist cadres for these offices to lead the organizational work. People who know about the popular defense camps in Sudan say that after the Islamic popular conference ended and its resolutions were issued, activists suggested that quick action be taken in view of the tense relations between

Sudan and its neighbors Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. These activists suggested that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi government try to intensify its campaigns to mobilize more young people ostensibly for training in the camps of the popular defense forces. The purpose, however, was to indoctrinate these young people in the ideas of international fundamentalism to enable the coordination and follow up the secretariat of the Islamic popular conference to send them to the neighboring countries to establish organizations to replace the existing governments. They send the elements they fail to indoctrinate to southern Sudan where they face death.

The sources say that according to statistics from Khartoum, about 9,000 members of the popular defense forces and pro-al-Turabi militias have been killed, 15,000 have been wounded, and 5,000 have been taken prisoners by the SPLA. The sources add that these statistics are the outcome of operations carried out by the Khartoum government last summer. They say that 50,000 of these forces were killed in the past five years.

The African continent was chosen as the theater of operations by the extremist groups for the following reasons:

1. the easiness of movement and passage inside the eastern and central African states on the one hand and the western African states on the other;

2. the existence of large Muslim communities in many of these states;
3. the activity of private Islamic organizations, extending relief aid to refugees and people affected by natural and other human disasters, played an important and effective role in establishing a solid ground on which activists of fundamentalist extremism can stand;
4. the old relations that linked the leaders of fundamentalist Islam in Sudan with influential figures in the Islamic communities of these states, particularly among members of the Sufi sect in western and eastern Africa, like al-Tijaniyah, al-Shadhiliyah, and others.

Informed Western sources affirmed that Sudan was chosen to undertake the task of infiltrating and penetrating into the African countries at secret meetings held after the popular conference ended last month. The al-Bashir regime was chosen to undertake this mission for several reasons, the most important of which are: the experience the fundamentalist movement in Sudan has gained since its establishment in the sixties and Sudan's experience in conducting war and logistic operations and forming extremist terrorist cells.

Sudan was also chosen to undertake the penetration of African states on behalf of international fundamentalism because of its strategic position. It is close to nine African states and it has a long coast along the Red Sea that allows the smuggling of weapons and military equipment.

Regarding the relations between Sudan and Eritrea and the differences that led to the severing of relations between the two countries, Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi has said that Asmara first broke off its diplomatic relations with Sudan, and this was a surprise to the Sudanese. He denied that Sudan interfered in Eritrea's internal affairs. He also denied that Sudan provided military training to some Eritrean elements, saying: "The Eritreans are, by nature, trained to carry weapons."

Eritrea, the youngest African state, earlier this year broke off its diplomatic relations with Sudan, accusing Khartoum of training extremist Islamists and sending them across the border to undermine stability in Eritrea. Lieutenant General al-Bashir attributed the Eritrean move to break off its relations with Khartoum to Eritrea's inexperience in dealing with other states and organizations.

Some sources said that following the recent measures to restrict the entry of foreigners into Sudan, Khartoum has recently started urging Eritrean refugees in Sudan to return home or stay and join camps, which, the official authorities said, are refugee camps prepared by the government as a final station before repatriating the refugees to Eritrea. The truth is that these camps were set up especially to train Eritrean Islamists of the al-Jihad organization to enable them to infiltrate across the border. These camps were set up in the Wid Sharifi and al-Shuk areas, near the border between the two countries.

Following the tension in the relations with Uganda and Eritrea, Ethiopia entered on the line. Its president Meles Zenawi made a strongly worded statement in which he said: "We will fight Sudan if its interference in our affairs increases." He added: "We clearly oppose any attempt by the Sudanese Government to interfere in our internal affairs. If some Sudanese officials think that the situation of the Ethiopian Muslims is one of their affairs, we are not afraid to say to them that this is not their business at all. If they thought so, then it would be our business to interfere in Sudanese affairs on the premise of one for one." He added: "We think that some officials in Sudan are confusing ideology and relations between states that are established on mutual respect. We do not like this, and we told them that clearly."

The Ethiopian president's statement came one day after a statement by Eritrean President Isais Afwerki in which he tried to diminish the importance of the Sudanese military concentrations on the Eritrean border, saying: "Sudan cannot launch any military operation against

Eritrea." He added: "All the Sudanese maneuvers we are seeing on the border between the two countries are just a cover for the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime's internal crises and the war in the south. Therefore, we think that these concentrations have no importance and no military, political, or moral sense."

The Eritrean president said that Khartoum's relations are tense not only with Asmara, but also with Uganda and Ethiopia. He said that he is trying to tactically prevent further deterioration in the relations. It is known that Isais Afwerki had spent 29 years in Sudan during the fight for Eritrea's independence from Ethiopia.

What can be concluded from the statements of Afwerki and Zenawi is that the main problem in the relations between the Khartoum regime and all its neighbors in the Horn of Africa is that this regime wants to establish a so-called "fundamentalist belt" according to a gradual plan.

This plan ostensibly advocates the establishment of democratic multiparty systems to legitimize work inside these states and facilitate the penetration process in Yemen, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. When this objective is achieved, seizing power would be possible, as happened in Sudan, through a military coup supported by loyalists inside the military establishment or through the partition of these states into smaller Islamic states, like, for example, establishing in Ethiopia the states of Dirdawa, Arumo, and Ogaden.

What can be said about Ethiopia also applies to Eritrea, Uganda, Somalia, and Djibouti. In all cases, the plan is the same and is ready for implementation within 10 years. Informed sources say that the National Islamic Front's regime in Khartoum has achieved positive and important results in Djibouti, Somalia, and Uganda.

The sources add that northern Somalia is now controlled by the fundamentalists, who are backed by the Islamic Front. They also support Aidid in the south with money and supplies. They have penetrated the security and political departments in Djibouti and are about to seize power there after the term of President Hassan Gouled ends. As for Uganda, the uncovered plan revealed the involvement of some Western states and Sudan in an attempt to topple the government of Yoweri Museveni with the help of an opposition group led by a Christian pastor.

Bahrain

Diplomats, Residents Report Renewed Violence

NC1607125295 Paris AFP in English
1226 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, July 16 (AFP) — Bahrain has been hit by renewed unrest after a long period of calm, with two liquor stores being set on fire and the death of a young Shiite in police custody, diplomats and residents said Saturday [16 July].

Bahrain was the scene of violent demonstrations from December to April, which caused at least 12 deaths, including three police officers.

Two liquor stores were set ablaze on July 8, apparently with a delayed timer, causing several injuries, foreign diplomats in Bahrain told AFP by telephone.

No one claimed responsibility for the incidents, described by the local press as accidents.

At least one demonstration was reported by residents in the Shiite district of Sanabis, west of Manama, apparently sparked by the death of a young Shiite in prison.

A statement from the London-based Bahrain Freedom Movement, charged that Sa'id al-Iskafi, 15, died under torture on July 8.

"We know someone died," said a Western diplomat in Bahrain, without confirming the date or circumstances surrounding the death.

A resident said there had been heightened police patrols around Shiite areas, but no roadblocks.

There have been incidents of small fires and exploding gas tanks.

"There are one or two of these incidents every night," a diplomat said.

No foreign embassy in Bahrain, however, has issued safety warnings to its nationals.

The protests calmed in April and a new government was formed at the end of June.

According to diplomats, the incidents have been sparked by high unemployment, which particularly affects the Shiite majority of the country's population.

Demonstrations have also been mounted against the lack of democracy and repression in the country, sources said.

In an interview published July 11 in the Saudi newspaper Al-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Bahrain's new minister of information, Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa' said "problems could be created at any moment."

He said the violence was caused by a campaign led in "collaboration with foreign groups" and not based on social problems.

On July 9, the government said 150 people arrested during incidents that began in December were released. The interior ministry said in April that 120 people had been released, but the total number of those arrested has never been officially announced.

Violence erupted in December after the arrest of a leading Shiite cleric who was expelled, and has sought political asylum in Britain. He had called for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

Prime Minister on Border Problems With Qatar

LD1707132595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0707 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Jul — In a press interview published here today, the Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin Salman Al Khalifah expressed his hope of ending the border problems between the State of Bahrain and Qatar under the new Qatari leadership.

He stressed in his interview with AL-SIYASAH newspaper that "the ending of the problems will save us and them a lot, and I do not think that there is a difficulty obstructing cooperation among brothers, or supporting one another."

He welcomed the agreement reached between Saudi Arabia and Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman to end the border problems among themselves, and also welcomed the agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to complete the remaining border agreements between them.

He said that "the world was governed by economic and development minds, which market industries, potentials and tourism, and the present time does not help any activities other than this type, and does not allow the world to live in atmospheres of disputes." [passage omitted]

Concerning the present government's plan, he pointed out that the current orientation was to set up joint industries between Bahrain, the industrial countries, and the large industrial companies, expanding the flow of trade, reviving tourism, creating job opportunities, and exploiting the Bahraini potentials in the best manner.

He pointed out to the availability of all the potentials to achieve these goals by saying that "security is available, and there is nothing to disturb the clarity of stability."

He added that all this information "can only be served well by stability, and stability is the will of the Bahraini people who know that it is not possible to respond to all the demands without prevailing stability and security."

Sudan's Taha Delivers al-Bashir Message to Amir

JN1707110595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 17 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the state of Bahrain, received a written message from Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The message deals with bilateral relations and latest Arab and international developments.

The message was delivered by Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha at a meeting with his highness in Manama this morning. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalid Al Khalifah, minister of justice and Islamic affairs.

Sudanese Minister Departs

JN1707183295 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, July 17 (GNA) — Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha left Bahrain today after a two-day visit as part of a regional tour.

He conveyed a message to H.H. [His Highness] the Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah from Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir.

The Sudanese minister was seen off by his Bahraini counterpart Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign under secretary Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi and other officials at the Ministry.

Saudi Arabia

CDLR Bulletin on Islamic Practices, Rites

MS1707145295 London CDLR Monitor in English 16 Jun 95 p

[Bulletin No. 52 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR) — received via Internet 17 July]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — The Legitimacy of the Regime, Part four

Maintaining Islamic Rites

In previous issues, we have discussed various aspects of the legitimacy of the State. Part one was a general introduction of the rules governing Islamic legality. The second part was dedicated to the type of rule in Saudi Arabia at present and Saudi relations were discussed in the third part.

In this, part 4, we will be looking at the responsibility the State has, to nurture Islam and develop a faithful observance of its way. al Sa-ud's implementation of this duty will then briefly be examined.

How explicit is Islam in the role and responsibility of the state? Koran and Sunnah tell us that the strengthening of Islam, the propagation of the word of Allah and the establishment of Islamic practices and rites are the well-defined duties of Muslim leaders.

In the Koran, Allah said, (They are those who, if we establish them in the land,establish regular prayer and give regular charity, enjoin the right and forbid wrong: with God rests the end and decision of all affairs). Al-Qurtubi summed up his interpretation of this verse by saying, "It is a condition from Allah (swt) [Almighty] to leaders". Shaykh Muhammed Ibn-Abdul-Wahhab said that the only aim of leadership is contained in that verse. Ibn Taymiyyah explained by saying that the correct leading and guidance of people is one of the most essential duties of Islam and that no religion can be established without a proper, legitimate leadership. Al Mawardi said that leadership was a continuation of the wisdom of the message of prophethood with regard to guarding faith and managing life. The first requirement of a legitimate leader is, therefore, to establish Islamic practice within the state and society.

Second to this, Koran and Sunnah state that sustaining Islamic rites will only be accomplished if the leaders implement the Muslim duty of enjoining good and forbidding evil. (You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong and believing in God.) and (The believers, men and women, are protectors, one of another: they enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil.) The leader is, therefore, the representative of the nation in this, establishing good and forbidding evil. Ibn Taymiyyah clearly stated that leadership in Islam is aimed at this. A similar statement was made by Ibn al-Qayyim. Ibn Taymiyyah also said that this duty was levied on every Muslim but that leaders are in the strongest position to carry it out. This, of course, makes leaders most accountable.

Koran and Sunnah clearly teach that the disruption of Islam, the weakening of good behaviour and the encouragement of wrongdoing are reasons for real unhappiness and frustration in this life and the cause of punishment in the hereafter. Allah said, (When we decide to destroy a population, we first send a definite order to those among them who are given the good things of this life and yet transgress; so that the word is proved true against them: then we destroy them utterly.) The Prophet (pbuh) [Peace be upon him] said "If people see the oppressor and take no action to stop him, then they would be on the brink of punishment." The Prophet (pbuh) also said that you must enjoin good and forbid evil, or Allah will punish you. There are many hadiths to the same effect.

The forementioned evidence from Koran and Hadith are only a few samples from many. They give a definite diagnosis for the Saudi nation's apathy, which is represented by their leaders. What is worse, is the fact that those leaders are actually enjoining evil and forbidding good. They fight preachers and reformers, and defend corruption and falsehood.

Fourthly, Islamic scholars state that if a group of people insist on the disabling of clear, known Islamic practices or making the forbidden lawful, then they should be fought in the same way Caliph Abu-Bakr (RA) fought the group who ceased to pay zakat. That group did not deny prophethood, nor the Koran. They did not even deny other Islamic rites. However, the refusal to comply with one of the pillars of Islam was enough for the Caliph to fight them. Ibn-Taymiyyah said, with reference to this case, that any group of Muslims who ceased to practice some of the known rituals, must be fought until they return fully to correct practice and thus the wholeness of Islam. He also said that the legalisation of that which is forbidden, such as ribba (usury), drinking, adultery etc., whilst at the same time admitting their illegitimacy, should also be fought. Therefore, if a group admits to a belief that such things are legal, but nevertheless does not practice them, then the group must still be fought and made to comply.

The implementation of the above Islamic rites and duties are what Islam makes compulsory on a Government.

We will compare the Saudi regime's position and its "supposed" Islamic duties towards the nation with the legitimate position.

(1) Jihad and the protection of the country. The minimum requirement is the protection of the country and the assurance of Muslim's security of faith, well-being etc. Al-Mawardi and other scholars said that one of the leader's responsibilities is the protection of the country and the assurance of people's security in their own land. Others added that it is the duty of the leader to appoint the most able men and train them to protect the country. Al Sa'ud's position in this is the absolute opposite, as they purposefully weaken the army and expose the country to its foes by depending entirely on them.

(2) The legalisation of ribba (usury). This has been forbidden by Shariah and is one of the most basic tenets known to Muslims. Allah said (O ye who believe! fear God and give up what remains of your demand for usury, if ye are indeed believers). Ribba was not only legalised but has become the foundation of economic activity, both at home and abroad. All institutions are supported with legislations and finances coming from it. The Government went even further by officially prohibiting Islamic banks and preventing the publication of Fatwas from scholars regarding banks using interest. Advertising was also prohibited for Islamic banks, although this is available even in non-Islamic countries.

(3) The enjoining of good and forbidding of evil. The proper, legitimate meaning of this is not just a Government Institution which happens to bear this name. Rather it is the Government's responsibility, through the proper channels at all levels, to encourage and support all good actions and to protect preaching and to prevent wrongdoing and injustice, as indicated previously.

Contemplation of this point brings about the conclusion that the Government has not only failed to enjoin that which is good, but has, in fact, purposefully and systematically enjoined all that is wrong and has protected this wrongdoing whilst forbidding that which is good. By examining the way in which the Government dealt with preaching and reform, it would be discovered that there is a whole programme to suppress reform being carried out in the country. In this programme, the Government has blocked all channels through which the word of truth might reach people and yet has eased all the means by which corruption can get to them.

An example of how the word of truth is blocked can be seen where the Government has placed restrictions on preachers and has prohibited anyone from speaking in public without permission. The Government has forbidden a large number of trustworthy preachers from public speaking. It has also sacked numerous Imams, scholars and preachers from mosques and universities. These steps were further enhanced by the arrest of many scholars and preachers, along with hundreds of their followers, and their incarceration. Many were actually tortured. Such is the situation of reform and reformers in the Kingdom. For foreigners, involvement in political Islamic activities is a reason for refusing entry visas and far worse, is the handing over of refugees to their Governments to be persecuted or even killed.

With regard to the war raged against preaching and reform, the Government has placed tight restrictions on Islamic audio publications, primarily by closing many of the recording studios and shops, along with a ban on a large number of cassettes. Severe punishment has been imposed on violations of these restrictions. Islamic magazines have also been banned and Islamists have been prohibited from speaking to the nation through the media, except those who discuss limited personal Islamic activities. Islamists have also been banned from reaching any high positions in politics, the military, security, education etc. The Government even intervened in the appointment of college principals and department heads, and implemented a new policy with charitable organisations, they closed all the independent institutions in an attempt to besiege preaching and reform.

The Government banned all forms of group cooperation, and dealt with any violations in a most oppressive manner. An observer of the details of these activities came to the conclusion that the aim is Islam itself and not simply the disturbance of a Shaykh or a scholar who dared to criticise the Government. As a further, small example, we put forward this story which is typical of the Government's attitude towards Islam. A few years ago, a number of preachers noticed groups of young men gathering outside Riyadh to race cars, take drugs and indulge in other vices etc. The preachers camped nearby and very politely and gently called upon these youngsters to repent and stop such activities. The preachers managed to attract thousands of the young people to adopt an Islamic way of life. As soon as this became general knowledge, the authorities assaulted the camps and destroyed all the equipment. Everyone was thrown out. The excuse being that they did not have permission. The preachers in charge refused to give in, and managed to obtain personal permission from Shaykh Ibn-Baz to re-establish the camp. After two days the security forces once again assaulted the camp and destroyed the equipment. The person who made the effort to obtain permission from Shaykh Ibn-Baz to re-open the camp, was jailed.

This is only one small example of the Government's encouraging young people to go astray by taking away the authority of Islam. The Government supported the programme of spreading corruption, not just by a denial of preaching and reform but by using all means at their disposal to destroy society values and consequently society itself. How can they bring this about? One way is utilising the media for ideological and moral corruption and thus avoid the embarrassment of being caught spreading such immoral and anti- Islamic values which are contrary to the faith and morality of society.

The Government has exported most of its media-related activities abroad through satellite television etc. The authorities also permitted only non-Islamic and corrupt personalities to attain sensitive positions in the country. In fact, being corrupt or curruptible has become one of the most important qualities for people to reach high positions. At the same time, preachers have been prevented from speaking to the nation, whilst all doors have been opened to the corrupt to speak to the nation through the media. All types of "low-class" or dirty publications have been allowed and made easily accessible for the people. The Government supported, though princes and their cronies, all forms of corruption and protected them and their activities. These princes encourage and provide all kinds of vice; alcohol, drugs, prostitution etc., and they are protected in this by the Government.

One more note worth mentioning, is the so-called "enjoining of good and forbidding of evil" institutions, which were inherited by the regime and only kept to avoid embarrassment with the general public and to prevent embarrassing reactions from scholars. Therefore, al Sa'ud perverted the institution's role to become the opposite of their original purpose. They have become institutions working to deform Islam, rather than to promote Islam. After a number of carefully placed regulations, such institutions have been totally transformed into weak, helpless organisations.

This is the reality of the regime's programme, and its war raged against Islamic preaching and reform in the mosques, schools, television, magazines, newspapers etc. It extends to the individual, group and the whole society. The regime has a programme to isolate and corrupt the nation. To take it away from its beliefs and moral standards.

News

Resentment In The Anti-Riot Police Force...

The officers and personnel of the anti-riot police, officially known as the Special Emergency Forces, have suffered increased psychological stress since the Buraydah Intifada. Many of them have expressed their resentment of the continued state of emergency to the Committee's correspondents. They have made known their feelings that they have been prepared and trained to rage war against the nation, all for the sake of the oppressors.

New Publications

A new issue of Al-Nazir bulletin was distributed last week, with a front page editorial entitled "The Way To Destruction In The Shadow of Treacherous Rulers and World Silence."

An issue numbered 16, of the al-Jawf Liberals bulletin was distributed. It is known that these bulletins and other leaflets are prepared, printed and distributed inside the Kingdom. The authorities are still unable to stop this widespread trend and the number of different bulletins has increased.

Gratitude

The Committee presents its thanks and gratitude to those young people who take the risk of participating in the reform activities by risking their own freedom and future by distributing the various publications of the Committee in order to awaken the nation. We ask Allah to reward them greatly for their actions, and we hope that insh'allah they will soon see the effect of their activities.

A New Forgery...

A new, forged communique, in the name of Shaykh Salman al-'Awdah, was distributed on a limited scale. It contains a call to the Youth to be patient and quiet. The communique is supposed to have been leaked from prison. The Committee received information which was confirmed, that the communique is a forgery, and is the work of the security police who are fearful of the consequences of the continued detention of the Shaykh.

The Cup League...

Fahd's brothers prepared themselves for the cup game, and learned their lesson from the Continent's League, only a few hundred spectators actually arrived. This time, the preparation was made earlier, as the civil security personnel were instructed to arrive at the stadium on that day. Their number from the Western Area alone ranged into tens of thousands. They were assigned the duty of acting the part of enthusiastic supporters for the King's arrival. Fahd also received several presents and the whole event was magnified by the media in an attempt to show that the loyalty to the King is still strong.

New Arrests...

In the recent arrests campaign, the people of Mithenib were surprised by three squads of security men. One squad made an assault on Shaykh 'Abdullah Ibn Ali Al-Suwatdani's house. The second squad surrounded the house of Shaykh 'Abdul-al-'Aziz Ibn- Muhammed al-Suba'i, whilst the third squad, the house of Salih Ibn-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Quwayfil. Each squad consisted of three cars, with both security men and women, and the houses were assaulted and searched thoroughly. The three men were handcuffed and taken to an unknown destination. This event caused a great deal of resentment in Mithnib [as published], particularly as the persons arrested were very well known charitable and righteous personalities. In Buraydah, Abd-al-Latif Ibn-Ibrahim al-Qudayah was arrested.

Reply to Readers...

— Al-Muqbil family, from Buraydah, wrote to us regarding the role of Judge Muhammed al-Muqbil in Riyadh Court, as published in the previous bulletin. They appealed to us to mention that although the Judge carries a similar family name, he does not belong either to their family, or their tribe. The similarity of his name has caused them much embarrassment and criticism.

— For the Brothers who send us news and information, we would like to inform them that the bulletin is too small to accommodate all the news and letters sent to us but hopefully they will appear in our monthly magazine, whose first issue will be published in the near future.

— With regard to the Brothers who participate with their opinions, criticisms and suggestions, we would like to inform them that they should not expect "instant action". We would like to confirm that all ideas are taken into consideration, as long as they are legitimate and applicable.

CLDR Bulletin on People's Duties to Nation

MS1807105795 London CDLR Monitor in English 7 Jul 95 p

[Bulletin No. 55 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR) — received via Internet 18 July]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know The Legitimacy of the Regime, Part seven — The Duties of the Nation Towards the Regime...

The legality of the present regime has been discussed in previous issues from the viewpoint of Koranic evidence and the statements of renowned scholars. This was then applied to the policies and actions of the regime. The presentation of such discussions was not undertaken for the sake of intellectual debates but was presented for the legal implications on practising Muslims who accept evidence from Shari'ah and comply with its laws.

We worship Allah (SWT) [Almighty] by following His message and the interpretations of His Prophet (PBUH) [Peace Be Upon Him]. We follow those scholars who have proved faithful to Allah (SWT), and whose interpretations and statements correspond to the general context of Shari'ah. It would not be possible for us to accept the interpretations of those scholars who distort their legitimate responsibilities by announcing generalised statements which are not accurate and made in order to mislead the nation. The arguments as voiced by these scholars, however, would not stand for any length of time, as truth will always prevail with those Muslims who are anxious to hear the truth supported by accurate evidence from shari'ah. When discussing the duties of the nation, we believe that the people can be divided into three distinct groups with regard to the regime.

Firstly, there is the group who believe in the illegitimacy of the regime because of its total disregard of the responsibilities of a leader in Islam. Furthermore, the actions of the leaders are actually contrary to the rules of Shari'ah, particularly with regard to legislation adopted by the leadership as they are outside the boundaries of Shari'ah and are actually forced upon the people. The second group agree on all that has been said in respect of the disregard by the regime of the duties of leaders in Islam, but hold reservations regarding the conclusions that must necessarily arise from discussions about the illegitimacy of the regime. Such reservations are the result of numerous distorted statements issued by the official scholars, which in effect strongly emphasise the duty of loyalty to a leader, even if the leader is oppressive. The third group does not agree whatsoever with the whole discussion that has been presented regarding the illegitimacy of the regime, and they believe that the regime is implementing its legitimate duties and is actually eager to serve the Muslims and protect the faith. This group believe that what may appear to be crimes in the eyes of other people, are in reality unintentional mistakes carried out by the leadership. This group believes that any other crimes committed by the leadership are only due to inescapable personal desires and selfishness. From this, they have concluded that all the crimes do not actually detract from the legitimacy of the regime, or the aims of leadership necessary in Islam.

This last group of people have been proved without doubt to be engaging in behaviour even more illegitimate than that of the regime itself because of their deliberate deception and misleading of the people, as well as the disabling of legitimate implications. Such action is considered to be collaboration in committing unlawful behaviour. Ibn-Taymiyyah (RA) said, "It is forbidden for a Muslim to co-operate with oppression. Co-operation comes in two forms,: — co-operation in performing good deeds, which is instructed by Shari'ah, and co-operation in performing unlawful deeds, which is forbidden." There is no doubt that the issuance of fatwas and statements to justify the crimes of the ruler towards the nation and the deliberately misleading statements issued to endorse such leaders, as well as keeping silent regarding any illegitimate actions are all acts that are considered as being co-operation to perform unlawful deeds. This is all forbidden in Islam.

The crimes of such scholars are great, due to their knowledge of shari'ah and the realities of the regime. If such people continue to argue and justify the actions of the regime, actions which have been proved without a doubt to be illegal, then their insistence on the defence of the oppressors is actually insistence on a heinous sin, particularly when all the legitimate evidence has been presented to these people.

This third group of people are in effect the assistants of the oppressors, and may even become oppressors themselves if they attain positions such as those in the judiciary, in issuing fatwas and legislation, or in any position where they have some authority.

A prison warder once asked Imam Ahmad Ibn-Hanbal (RA) whether he would be considered to be an assistant of an oppressor because of his job as a prison warder. The Imam replied "Your are one of the oppressors!" Returning to the second group we mentioned earlier, their opinions are respected, and their reservations about passing sentences on the legitimacy of the regime are also understood, mainly because of the Hadiths of the Prophet (PBUH), and the statements of various scholars regarding loyalty to the leadership. However, the continued exposure of the regime, and the overwhelming evidence against them, will, in time, change the stand of this group. This case will be discussed in more detail in future bulletins. Our main concern here is with regard to the duties of the nation towards the regime, based on the understanding of the evidence presented in this series, and which can be simplified in the following points: —

(1) — The minimum compulsory duty of a Muslim is to deny in his heart any sinful actions. This is evident in many of the Prophet's (PBUH) Hadiths, such as "Whomever sees a wrongful action should change it with his hand. If he cannot, he should condemn it with his tongue. If he cannot do this, he must deny it in his heart. This is the minimum required as a sign of faith."

Also, Ibn-Hazm said that the denial of sinful actions with the heart is a minimum requirement of a Muslim, and is a compulsory duty. Ibn-Taymiyyah made a comparison between the denial of unlawful actions by the heart and the essence of faith. He stated that the lack of denial of wrongful actions by the heart is itself contrary to faith. Even so, the resentment of sinful actions by the heart is itself conditional upon the fact that a Muslim who resents a particular illegitimate action, should not assist oppressors, approve of their actions, tolerate them or appease them without criticism. Neither should he support or argue on behalf of those committing sinful actions, as such actions would place a question mark over a man's sincerity to his faith. The Prophet (PBUH) related that if a sin is being committed and someone saw and condemned it, then he is considered to be as if he had not seen it. Alternatively, if someone was absent, but accepted the sin, then he is considered to have supported that sin. Despite the fact that resenting wrongful actions by heart may save a man in the hereafter, this is still no guarantee from punishment in the present life, which can result from the absence of change with regard to sinful, oppressive and unjust actions. This is explained in Koran in the story of the people of the Sabbath. (When some of them said: why do ye preach to a people whom God will destroy or visit with a terrible punishment? said the preachers: to discharge our duty to your Lord, and perchance they may fear him. When they disregarded the warnings that had been given them, we rescued those who forbade evil; but we visited the wrong doers with a grievous punishment, because they were given to transgression.)

Here, the people who criticised and rejected wrongful behaviour were saved, and those sinful people who kept silent were destroyed.

The Prophet (PBUH) said that Allah (SWT) would not punish the ordinary people of the nation for the actions of the elite, until sinful actions were also evident amongst the people, and whilst being able to criticise and change such actions, the people chose to stay silent, only then would Allah (SWT) punish them all.

(2) — Another compulsory duty is to support and rally around the observant scholars and reformers who enjoin the doing of good and forbid wrongdoing. A scholar remarked that decisions are the duties of scholars, and it is the duty of the people to refer to them for advice. Regarding the collective duties in this case, they are divided into three main points: —

(a) — to clarify the truth to the people and expose wrongdoing.

(b) — to strive for the establishment of the disabled collective duties by all legitimate means.

(c) — to strive to change the apparent unlawful actions as much as is possible.

With regard to the first point, Allah (SWT) said: — (And remember God took a covenant from the people of the book, to make it known and clear to mankind.) (Those who conceal the clear (signs) we have sent down, and the guidance, after we have made it clear for the people in the book, on them shall be God's curse, and the curse of those entitled to curse,) In his interpretation, Ibn-Katheer stated that this is a strong threat to the people who conceal the clear truth as brought by the Prophets of Allah (SWT), or those who distort the meaning of the Creators message.

In the previous parts we discussed the compulsory duty of the nation with regard to implementing its collective duties and appointing a group to fulfil such a responsibility. With regard to the enjoining of good and forbidding of Evil, we have repeatedly indicated that such duties, if not fulfilled, would result in the displeasure of the Creator, and punishment in the present life and in the hereafter. An important fact ignored by most Muslims, and even by those who are well educated, is that the responsibility for the establishment of the legitimate aims of Shari'ah is not only the responsibility of the leadership but the nation as a whole. This is because the assignment of practising Shari'ah falls upon the nation as a whole. The leader, when he practises Shari'ah, is only doing so as a representative of the nation. Anyone who ignores the role of the nation and its responsibilities, is contradicting general Islamic procedures. This is the reason why whenever there is a dispute in Islam, we should refer to Koran and Sunnah, with the nation in full understanding of this, and not just the leader.

Ibn-Taymiyyah said that it is the duty of the leader to protect Shari'ah, but it is also the duty of the nation to protect Shari'ah, because the nation as a whole is less likely to be fallible. Ibn-Taymiyyah also stated that the Ijmaa of the nation will never be construed as a wrongdoing, as described in Koran and Sunnah. Therefore, the people who criticised the reformers as being preachers of diversity and division are themselves preachers of unity with regard to wrongful, illegitimate actions. This is contrary to the call of Allah (SWT) where he said; (And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves;) This means that the unity should only be in the way of Allah (SWT). Finally, the previous points are only general reminders and introductions. The duty of the Muslim is to strive to the best of his or her ability to fulfil their duties and to reduce wrongdoing and unlawful actions. In future bulletins we will present more details regarding such duties.

Announcement...

Due to the publication of the Ash-Shar'iyyah magazine and its successful distribution inside the country, it has been decided to reduce the weekly bulletin to two pages from next week.

An Open Letter To The Chief Editor of UKAZ Newspaper...

Dear Editor-in-Chief, Hashim 'Abduh Hashim, Al-Salam-'Alaykum

I am aware of that which you published on the first page of your newspaper on Friday 23/6/95, and the abuse and insults against my person, some of which came directly from yourself in the opening article, whilst the remainder were related by the Mufti of the country, Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Baz, to whom I have replied in a separate letter.

I will not disturb myself by replying to your abuse and insults, but I would say that if Islam was dominant and Shari'a was practised, then I would have been obliged to bring a case of libel against you in a court of law.

However, you know more than I do about the reality of the judiciary system in our country. The most important point mentioned in your article is the threat to cease my activities or else you will expose what you claim to be scandals related to me, my way of thinking etc. Such threats would never be your own personal conclusion and would never be published without the permission of the masters who also have the right to appoint you to your position, or indeed, to remove your from that position. They also have the right to instruct and direct you regarding what to write and what not to write. Despite all of this, I will treat your request as if it were from a chief editor of a prominent "national" newspaper. I would like you to know that I am prepared to answer your request, conditional upon the following : —

(1) — The formation of a general council for all the journalists, writers, intellectuals etc. in the Kingdom. From this council, the first journalists union in the country should be elected.

(2) — The elected union should then suggest a system, or law, to govern the freedom of publication according to Islamic law, in order to give freedom to issue newspapers, magazines, and general media projects.

(3) — To declare the independence of the press from the authorities.

(4) — To stop the daily intervention of the media ministry.

(5) — To make the appointment of chief editors, and chairmen of press institutions, to be the right of the members of the managing committee, without the ministry's interference.

(6) — To prevent the intervention of the Media and Interior Ministries, influential princes, etc. to stop any citizen or journalist from expressing their opinions.

(7) — To cancel all the previous laws and directions which place great constraints on freedom of speech, and forbid many intellectuals and reformers from publishing their material.

(8) — The Government should cease to finance foreign media companies, both directly and indirectly.

(9) — The Government must cease to present any privileges to either a person, or a company, in the media field, and to stop the monopolisation of private radio and television transmissions.

(10) — To transform the Saudi Corporation for research and marketing into a general co-operative company such as the Middle East Broadcasting Company (M.B.C) and the company for Arab Radio and Television. To prevent the members of the ruling family and government officials from receiving ownership of, or participation in, the media and press, in order to secure its independence. The same should be done to the cable company ARAA.

Dear "prominent journalist," you may have noticed that I have concentrated my requests on one particular side, i.e. that of the media, as I believe that this area needs immediate reform in our country in order to attain a level of credible and civilised journalism.

I have not discussed economics, public services, defence, health, foreign policies, Government institutions, democratic (Shura) institutions, armed forces, security etc. However, you will find it impossible to implement even one of the conditions previously mentioned, due to the mentalities of the ruling family, of which you obviously are more aware than I, as you are so much closer to them than I.

Sir, there is no scandal bigger than the scandal that we have to bear in our own country. This scandal increases with time, so how can we keep silent. We in CDLR strive for your sake, Sir, for your freedom, so that you can stand with dignity in front of a teenage prince, who presently can censure you before the staff of your "prominent" newspaper and who may even slap, or spit at you, if he did not like your commentary regarding his favourite football club!

How can you request me to keep silent, when I see the media philosophy in other nations developing all the time in order to serve the nation, and its ideologies and the problems of its people, whilst the philosophy of our media is at a stand-still, and its whole aim is to serve the ruler. As another prominent Saudi journalist said, "when I edit tomorrow's newspaper I think of three readers only — The King, The Crown Prince and Prince Sultan. Then come the 8 million Saudis still remaining."

Dear Brother, think hard once again, in the hope that you will realise which one of us is living in disgrace.

I myself, have a very clean, clear conscience, and I have absolutely no fear from your unfounded accusations, because our nation is now much more aware and educated as to how the newspapers in our country are run. Is it not as the people usually say about newspapers that "all Saudi newspapers are one print"?

May Allah (SWT) guide us all to the right path.

Your Brother

Muhammad A.S. al-Mas'ari The Official Spokesman of CDLR

An Open Letter To His Eminence, The Mufti Your Eminence, Shaykh Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Baz as-Salam Alaikum The media have recently relayed a statement related as being the words of your Eminence, to the effect that "amongst the spiteful and ignorant who sold their faith and loyalty to Satan, are those such as Mohammed al-Mas'ari and his companions." The statement has been published and nothing has been said by you to deny such remarks, hence we must believe that your are the source, and therefore your legitimate responsibility stands as per the statement as published. Your eminence, let us put the case before Shari'ah, as we believe that you would not refuse to be judged by Shari'a. You said, with regard to a particular person, and named him specifically, that he and his companions "sold their faith and loyalty to Satan." In such a statement, your Eminence, you either meant both in word and meaning, in which case accusing us of disbelief and blasphemy, as no one would sell his faith to Satan unless he is a disbeliever; or you may have said the words metaphorically speaking, as an exaggeration in describing that person's action, which in your view is a crime. In this case, you have committed libel against that person.

Now, your Eminence, let us explore what the Prophet (PBUH) said regarding both cases. In the first case, you have accused a particular Muslim of blasphemy, when you know that if such an accusation is not true, it would rebound on the accuser. In the Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "whomever said to his brother you are a blasphemer, the accusation will always rebound on either one, or the other." Your Eminence, we are not used to your even being emboldened enough to accuse oppressors and criminals, never mind preachers and reformers. In the second case, your Eminence, you know very well the consequences, as you are the leading scholar in the knowledge of Hadith, and in knowing what the Prophet (PBUH) said, that is, whoever said about a believer, something that is not in him, then Allah (SWT) would put that person in the lowest levels of hell. Your Eminence, we are reminding you of your statement, and the legitimate consequences apparent as a result of such a statement. As we still think well of you, and believe that you would fear what Allah (SWT) and His Prophet (PBUH) said, we would like to ask the question that, if you describe in your Fatwa the ones who criticised the wrongdoings of the regime publicly and exposed the regime with leaflets and communiques, as having sold their faith and loyalty to Satan, then what form would your Fatwa take in describing the ones who have kept silent when rulers have distorted and modified Shari'ah, and have given their loyalty to foreign powers which hold great animosity towards Islam? How would you describe those who have handed over refugees seeking safety in the Sacred Mosque, to go to their deaths at the hands of their oppressors, and those who have spread corruption? Furthermore, how would you describe those who support the oppressors, and describe them as the keepers and protectors of faith, and those who make all kinds of justifications in the war raged against reform, as well as those who plead with the oppressors to put a stop to the faithful scholars and reformers who are accepted by the nation, such as Salman and Safar?

Now, Your Eminence, would you think those people are better than the ones "who sold their faith and loyalty to Satan?" However, despite the serious allegations you have raised against us, we are prepared to forgo our right to redress, upon fulfilment of one simple condition, as we are not planning to request you to publish an apology in the newspapers. However, we request you to declare a word of truth, or to publish a statement mentioning that the imprisonment of scholars such as Humud al-Ughla, Salman and Safar, as well as their followers, has been unjust, and that their imprisonment is war raged against reform and preaching. Then, and only then, will we forgo our rights. If this condition is not fulfilled, we will not seek an excuse for you until Allah (SWT) decides between us in the present life, or in the hereafter.

Oh Allah, we have declared. Oh Allah be our witness.

Saddam Relieves al-Majid as Defense Minister

JN1807174595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1701 GMT 18 Jul 95

["Text" of Republican Decree No. 225 issued in Baghdad on 18 July—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq.
Republican Decree No. 225.

Based on the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid shall be relieved of his post as defense minister.
Competent authorities shall implement this decree.
Written in Baghdad on 20 Safar 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 18 July 1995.
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

Decree Names New Defense Minster

JN1807175595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 95

["Text" of Republican Decree No. 226 issued in Baghdad on 18 July—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq.
Republican Decree No. 226.

Based on the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, the Army chief of staff, shall be appointed defense minister.
Competent authorities shall implement this decree.
Written in Baghdad on 20 Safar 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 18 July 1995.
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

Regime, KDP Shelling of Kurdish Areas Reported

NC1807165495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from the Kani Qirjala center in Irbil Governate have said the forces of the ruling dictator regime in Baghdad and their aides—the armed men of Mas'ud [Barzani, Kurdistan Democratic Party leader]—launched joint attack at 1100 on 17 July on the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga positions. The attack was supported by tanks, armored vehicles, and artillery from the 'Aflaqite regime, in addition to artillery and katyushas from Mas'ud's leadership. The attacks took place as follows:

First, the Baghdad regime's forces attacked from the areas of Satur, Chamcha, and (Benberez). Earlier, they had advanced into the area of (Najala). At 1000 on 17 July, they began extensive shelling of the Kani Qirjala building.

Second, Mas'ud gunmen attacked from the area of (Sob) Zawah and the main street there, while the PUK peshmergas confronted them and, in a decisive, crushing battle, defeated them so badly that they fled, leaving several dead and wounded behind on the battlefield. The forces of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] also played an effective and influential role in confronting the Baghdad regime forces and its gangs on the Chamcha, Satur, and (Benberez) route.

The PUK peshmergas and the UINC forces also caused the following damage to the forces of the dictator regime:

a. Burned out one tank.
b. Seized three cars.
c. Killed many members of the Iraqi regime and gunmen from the traitorous party leadership. After the total defeat, the artillery of the fascist regime shelled the citizens in the (Kebiran) apartment building and the Kani Qirjala building. Three civilians were wounded in the shelling.

Battles Rage Between Barzani, Talabani Forces

Baghdad TV Reports 'Violent' Battles

JN1807191295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1712 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Iraqi News Agency's special correspondent in Irbil says that violent artillery and mortar battles raged yesterday between the Barzani and Talabani cliques in the Kani Qirajalah area. The two sides sustained heavy losses. Other battles raged in (Kula Qasim), (Raza), (Kan), the (Qasri) axis, Darband Baziyan, and the Ziyarat axis. It has been reported from the Klar district that the bodies of 20 Talabani followers killed in clashes in the (Qasri) axis arrived in Klar and its suburbs.

In al-Sulaymaniyah, three brothers from one family were killed in the Qalisan village in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate in recent battles between the Talabani and Barzani elements. During a gathering at the village to offer condolences to the family of the victims, a brother of the three dead brothers tore a picture of Jalal Talabani into pieces and abused it in front of a group of his followers who did nothing in reaction. [passage omitted]

Barzani Counterattacks Talabani Forces

JN1807195895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In retaliation for the Jalalis' [forces of Jalal Talabani] continued attacks on the positions and axes of the Kurdistan peshmergas, the heroic peshmergas of the VI [word indistinct] Corps and the heroes of the 10th Branch launched a counterattack on the Jalali forces at 0400 on 18 July. In a heroic purging campaign in the hills and areas in which the Jalalis are stationed, on the foot of (?Handran), our heroes were able to liberate and purge (Garinshir) hill, known as Islam hill, two other important hills, and the Rawandoz and Kawulkah garrisons from the filth of Jalalis. The Jalalis could not stand in the face of our heroic peshmergas' blows and who fled leaving behind them a large number of dead and wounded, in addition to an RPG, other types of weapons, and a large quantity of military hardware and equipment.

Our peshmergas continued their campaigns against the remnants of the Jalalis who are fleeing.

May God save you, O heroes of the VI Corps and the 10th Branch, and victory is the lot of the Kurdistan peshmergas. Final defeat is the fate of the mercenaries of the Jalalis and their desperate attacks. May God save you and grant you victory.

KDP Peshmergas Repulse Talabani Attacks

JN1807202195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0730 today, 18 July, the defeated Jalali forces [forces of Jalal Talabani], ordered by their desperate commanders, launched three consecutive attacks on the positions of the Kurdistan peshmergas in the Diran-Shaqlawah axis. The heroes of the [Kurdistan Democratic] Party [KDP] and lions of the Barzani confronted and completely wiped out the enemy attacks. Meanwhile, the Jalali forces escaped to their dens under the fires of our heroic peshmergas who killed and wounded many of them.

May God save you, O heroes, the lions of the party and Barzani and the protectors of Kurdistan. Proceed forward from one victory to another.

PUK's Talabani Receives Iranian Delegation

NC1407162395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secretary general, received a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran led by [name indistinct] and three other officials in his office last night. During the meeting, which was attended by PUK Political Bureau members Fridun 'Abd-al-Qadir, Kamal Fu'ad, and Qadir al-Hajj 'Ali, Talabani stressed the PUK's firm position on the peace plans and the protection of our Kurdish people's gains in Kurdistan.

The Iranian delegation, which is visiting Kurdistan to stop the internecine fighting, is expected to discuss this issue today with officials of the Kurdistan Democratic Party. The meeting lasted about three hours.

KDP's Barzani Receives Iranian Delegation

JN1507202395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Struggler Mas'ud Barzani, leader of our Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], received a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran at his headquarters in Salah al-Din the night of 14/15 July. The meeting lasted one and a half hours. The current conditions in Kurdistan were discussed as well as the outbreak of fighting and the troubled situation in addition to other related issues.

Taking part in the meeting was Azad Barwari, member of the KDP Political Bureau.

Iran Accused of Backing Talabani Against Barzani

NC1507085895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (MENA)—Iraqi Kurdish sources have warned against a deterioration in the conditions in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in northern Iraq as a result of the fighting currently taking place there between the armed men of the two major Kurdish parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] led by Mas'ud Barzani and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] led by Jalal Talabani, and the negative effects this fighting will have on the future of the region as a result of the escalating tension there.

In statements to the MENA correspondent in Baghdad today, the Kurdish sources accused Iran of involvement in the current wave of fighting between the two Kurdish parties by urging Jalal Talabani, whom it supports very strongly, to attack Barzani's armed men to eliminate them, so that Talabani will have absolute and sole power over the area in northern Iraq and so that he will control the whole Kurdish region with the objective of securing Iran's borders with Iraq and preventing the infiltration of hostile elements into Iran.

These sources clarified that Talabani now has rapport with Iran after he kicked out the armed men of the KDP from his area of influence and shut down the KDP's radio station in northern Iraq in return for Iran's opening its borders to him for trade purposes and reviving his economic situation.

Ministry Condemns Iran's Contact With Kurds

JN1507203795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)—Iraq has strongly condemned an Iranian delegation's visit to northern Iraq, as well as its contacts with outlawed Iraqi cliques.

In a statement here this evening, a Foreign Ministry spokesman described the visit as a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and as an interference in its internal affairs. Following is the text of the statement:

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry today made a statement to the Iraqi News Agency in which he commented on an Iranian delegation visiting the northern part of the country on 13 July, 1995, and holding talks with traitor Talabani. The spokesman said:

The Government of the Republic of Iraq strongly condemns this visit and the contacts held with outlawed Iraqi cliques as a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty, as an interference in its internal affairs, and as an insistence on dealing with the outlawed cliques—a move which will encourage them to continue their suspected designs and to go ahead with their criminal practices with the aim of spreading instability in the region. Moreover, this behavior expresses the double standard policy being pursued by Iran toward the Kurdish issue.

The spokesman added: At a time when it views its Kurds, who belong to the Iranian Kurdish Democratic Party, as outlawed terrorist cliques and allows itself to chase them a crack down on them, Iran is cooperating with terrorist Iraqi Kurdish cliques, which are serving the suspected U.S. designs against the security and sovereignty of Iraq and the region's countries.

The Iranian delegation's visit to northern Iraq is a link in the chain of Iranian violations of Iraq's sovereignty and its territories. Confronting the Iranian-alleged dangers resulting from the abnormal situation in northern Iraq can only take place through direct, constructive, and frank cooperation and dialogue with the central authority in Iraq and by putting an end to imperialist interferences in the region, which are not only targeting Iraq, but also those who ignore this fact and responds to it wittingly or unwittingly.

Kurdish Politician Claims Turkey Wants Iraqi Territory

AU1907084195 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 17 Jul 95 p 9

[Interview with KDP member Bruska Shaways by Cristina Karrer; place and date not given: "Diverting Attention From Domestic Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Karrer] Why did Turkey invade northern Iraq?

[Shaways] Turkey justified this by referring to an attack by the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] on a Turkish transformer station near the Turkish-Iraqi border. However, we know that Turkish soldiers shot at the station and interrupted the power supply to the Iraqi-Kurdish province of Duhuq. For me, the so- called PKK problem is just an excuse by Turkey to divert attention from domestic problems. After all, they have to keep the Turkish military busy.

[Karrer] When Turkey invaded northern Iraq in spring, the KDP [Democratic Party of Kurdistan] claimed that it had not been informed about the invasion beforehand. Meanwhile, a KDP delegation has visited Ankara. What has changed since then?

[Shaways] Nothing. Once again, we were not informed. We still demand that the PKK and Turkey settle their problems in their own country and not on our territory. Furthermore, we are not mercenaries, who have to protect the border for Turkey.

[Karrer] The new invasion seems to be limited. Do you expect a major invasion in the near future?

[Shaways] If the Turks come, then they do not come because of the PKK but because of their old claim to the Ottoman town of Vilayet Mosul in northern Iraq, which they would like to integrate into Turkey. There are documents from 1983 that speak of such plans, which, by the way, are supported by the United States. Now the time would be favorable again. There are enough reasons: the danger posed by the PKK, hostile Iran and Iraq, and a power vacuum in our region.

[Karrer] The power vacuum has existed for over a year. The KDP and the PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] have not held direct negotiations for six months.

[Shaways] The war between the PUK and the KDP is over power. We wanted to change the conditions of power by elections, the PUK by military means. The problem cannot be settled through negotiations.

Opposition Says MKO To Move Offices to Gaza

JN1707184595 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi opposition sources have said that the tyrant Saddam is thinking of expelling the monafiqin-e [Mojahedin-e] Khalq Organization [MKO] in the wake of the increasing popular resentment against them and the killing and wounding of its elements at the hands of our people, in addition to the successful militant operations against their offices in Baghdad.

Within this framework, the sources added that Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the so-called Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho, is now paving the road for the Iranian monafiqin-e Khalq Organization to open offices in Gaza. The sources added that 'Arafat is holding secret contacts with Israelis, who encouraged 'Arafat in this wicked endeavor. The sources said that a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee has been formed to prepare the final arrangements to move the offices of the monafiqin-e from Baghdad to Gaza.

Saddam Receives Cuban Official

JN1607160095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Professor Alfeza Cambars [name as transliterated], member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of the Cuban-Iraqi Friendship Committee.

Saddam Receives Message From Yeltsin

JN1607190195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 95

["Text" of cable of congratulations from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the 27th anniversary of Iraq's 17-30 July Revolution; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Excellency Saddam Husayn, chairman of Iraq's Revolution Command Council and president of the Republic of Iraq: Please accept our congratulations on the Republic of Iraq's national day, the Revolution Day.

Iraq has pursued the path of the sincere and constructive cooperation with the world community with the aim of implementing the pertinent UN Security Council. This will provide a real opportunity to arrive at a final solution to the crisis in the Gulf region and for Iraq's return to the framework of normal dealings among states. In this, you can rely on Russia's support.

I wish the Iraqi people peace and tranquility and a quick end to the current difficult stage in their history.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, Moscow; the Kremlin

U.S. Blamed for UN's 'Lack of Firmness' in Bosnia

JN1607132595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0607 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says the United Nations and the Security Council have been subjected to U.S. hegemony following the United States' imposition of itself through brute force as the only power. The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said the United Nations and the Security Council are now dealing with regional and international issues in a selective manner and according to double- standard criteria. It adds that tactfulness or shrewdness required that this submission to U.S. hegemony not appear in such an exposed and obvious manner.

The paper points out that the Security Council has been very active and adamant toward the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq — an embargo that is not based on the simplest rules of international legitimacy, and that constitutes a great injustice and encroachment on human values. Yet, we find that the Security Council is careless about an issue that requires a lot of firmness, not only for the sake of preventing the injustice done to Bosnian civilians, but also for the sake of rescuing the UN's reputation and prestige, which are currently wallowing in the mud there.

The paper says: The continuous extension of the unjust embargo imposed on the our steadfast people after Iraq has fulfilled all its basic obligations to the Security Council's unjust resolutions, is an obvious violation of the legal and international obligations of the United Nations as well as the UN's legitimacy and the UN Charter. It is also a crime against all that is humane, just, and legitimate in this world.

The paper adds: The Security Council's deliberate lack of firmness toward the Bosnian issue, under direct pressure from the United States, is a confirmation of this hateful double-standard policy which characterizes the U.S. policy and brands it with aggression and insistence on committing crimes against all of humanity.

Two Young Men Killed in Attack in Wadi al-Qilt

TA1807121195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a terrorist attack in Wadi al-Qilt. Two young Israeli men in their 20's who were on a hiking holiday were shot and stabbed to death. A Nature Reserve Authority inspector found their bodies at noon today, near the 'Ayn al-Fawwar spring in the reserve. This is reported by our correspondent Gil Litman.

PFLP Claims Responsibility

TA1907100695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] terror organization has assumed responsibility for the murder of two Jewish youths in Wadi al-Qilt.

A PFLP spokesman phoned a news agency in Jerusalem and claimed that his terrorists killed the two Jews. As proof, he said that the PFLP men took the weapon of one of the victims after the murder. PFLP nationalistic slogans were discovered at the murder site. Investigators determined that they were written yesterday.

The PFLP, headed by George Habash, rejects the Oslo accords and refuses to accept Yasir 'Arafat's authority. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Takes Blame

NC1807184795 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, July 18 (AFP)—Militant Palestinians claimed responsibility for the murder of two Israelis whose bodies were found Tuesday [18 July] in a gorge on the occupied West Bank, police said.

The pair, both in their 20s, had been shot in the head several times and stabbed, apparently as they rested after a hike, in the first anti-Israeli attack in three months.

A Palestinian who said he was from the armed "al-Qassam" branch of the Moslem fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephone call to AFP. "We claim responsibility for the assassination of the two Israelis near Jericho in reprisal for that of our fighter Mahmud al- Khawaja, killed by the Israelis," the caller said. Al-Khawaja was shot dead on June 22 in the Gaza Strip, and the fundamentalists blamed Israel, which denied any involvement.

Members of Israel's Society for the Protection of Nature stumbled on the corpses in Wadi al-Qilt, a popular walking spot in the Judaean hills, above the autonomous enclave of Jericho. Police launched a hunt in the area with helicopter support. Central region military commander General Ilan Biran said on the radio that the killers fled into the autonomous enclave. The area where the two were killed is off limits to Israelis without permission from the Army, he said.

Islamic Jihad, opposed to peace with Israel, claimed the murder of two Israelis in Wadi al-Qilt on October 9, 1993.

The latest killings prompted the Jewish settlers' council for the West Bank and Gaza Strip to condemn negotiations in Israel to spread PLO self-rule over the territories. "These terrorists are talking in total safety while their accomplices kill Jews in Eretz (Biblical) Israel," the council announced in a statement.

Settlers radio Channel 7 called for a demonstration later Tuesday in front of the residence of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israel and the PLO began non-stop negotiations on Sunday to try to meet a July 25 deadline to extend autonomy.

The latest killings took to 79 the number of Israelis murdered by Palestinians since the launch of autonomy in May 1994. The last attack occurred on April 9, when a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a car next to a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, killing seven Israeli troops and an American student.

Tzomet Submits No-Confidence Motion

TA1907104795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Tzomet faction has submitted a motion of no confidence in the government in the wake of the Wadi al-Qilt murder. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Knesset plenum will debate the motion on 24 July.

Rabin: Water 'Greatest Danger' in Syria Talks

TA1907101095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jul 95 p 14

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Tal Shahaf, and Shefi Gabay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday that the greatest danger Israel has to face in the negotiations with Syria is the possibility of losing control over the Golan Heights water resources.

Rabin made these remarks during a meeting with 15 Israeli ambassadors who are slated to travel abroad in the next few days. At the same time, Rabin said: "Until proven otherwise, I believe al-Asad wants peace."

Senior political sources confirm that the water issue is included on the agenda of the Israeli-Syrian security talks, but no substantial negotiations have been held on this issue yet. [passage omitted]

Political sources said yesterday that Washington is anticipating the return of Syrian Ambassador al-Mu'allim. The Americans expect al—Mu'allim to provide proposals for solving the crisis created in the wake of Syria's refusal to resume the officers talks. According to the sources, if al-Mu'allim raises "constructive proposals," a meeting between him and Ambassador Rabinovich is expected to take place early next week. [passage omitted]

Beilin on Syria Negotiations, Jordan Relations

JN1807104995 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
19 Jul 95 p 8

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Nayif al-Turah in Jerusalem; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Turah] How do you assess the present Jordanian-Israeli relations. Do you not believe that you are expediting normalization more than necessary, especially since the treaty is only one year old?

[Beilin] Our historical relations with Jordan are unique, particularly between the Jordanian leadership and the successive Israeli leaders. We view the future of the partnership between us and Jordan under the canopy of the peace treaty that was signed between the two countries with great optimism, whether with respect to political or economic relations or any other relations that foster respect between the two neighbor countries.

I do not believe we are expediting normalization as you say. I believe we have been a bit late in achieving what serves the two countries under the canopy of peace. In particular, we have had longstanding relations that were made public only during the negotiations and the signing of the peace treaty. This, perhaps, gave the impression that we are expediting normalization. The media could have contributed to such an impression by not highlighting these relations or publicly speaking of them before the treaty.

[Al-Turah] We knew that there were secret contacts but we did not know that relations existed. What about these relations, and what type were they?

[Beilin] I previously said that the disclosure of these relations has come a bit late, most probably in view of the circumstances that existed in the region. Israeli leaders over the years have had much respect and amity for the Jordanian leadership.

[Al-Turah] But you still did not tell us how close these relations were.

[Beilin] I believe they were on a personal level between the two countries' officials.

[Al-Turah] How can you say that you have good relations with Jordan and that there is a comprehensive and real peace with us while you foil U.S. attempts to have Jordan join the Baird [name as published] fund that was established between Israel and the United States?

[Beilin] What fund? I know nothing about this matter.

[Al-Turah] It is the fund which invests $12 million a year in research and studies to develop companies and institutions. Have you not heard about it?

[Beilin] I have no information on this fund. I will discuss this issue with the concerned parties if such a fund exists.

[Al-Turah] Let's move to the Jordanian debts. We believe that Israel can play an effective role with the U.S. leadership in writing off Jordan's debts, especially since we know how influential you are in the U.S. Congress through your relations with the Republicans who control the congressional decisions. Why haven't you intervened seriously thus far?

[Beilin] We have intervened as much as it is allowed to do so. We tried to help Jordan overcome its economic difficulties, but on the other hand, we did not promise anyone to make Jordan another America. Regardless of the nature of our relations, we cannot dictate to the U.S. Administration and Congress on any subject.

[Al-Turah] But we know that you can help in this regard.

[Beilin] We have done what we can, and we cannot do anything more.

[Al-Turah] Let's move to the Palestinian issue. Why do you procrastinate on implementation of the second stage of the Oslo agreement, and why did you cancel the 1 July deadline?

[Beilin] The 1 July was a target date, not a sacred date. We tried to reach an agreement on all issues on the agenda of negotiations before that date, but we failed. We have delayed the date until the negotiations are completed in a manner that ensures reaching an agreement on all issues under discussion.

[Al-Turah] What should the Palestinians do so that the Israelis will implement the Oslo agreement? They have implemented everything, but you continue to procrastinate on implementing these agreements.

[Beilin] What is needed is to ensure security and stop the "terrorist" operations that are launched by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad so that we will know the ability of the Palestinian Authority [PA] to fulfill its promise and control the self-rule areas. We have implemented what we agreed on, but they did not commit themselves to the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

[Al-Turah] But it is clear to us that the PA is serious in its effort to implement these agreements. The authority implemented the agreements, but the Israelis, through delaying implementation, especially redeployment of the army, are trying to embarrass the Palestinian leadership and give the opposition forces the chance to control the Palestinian street.

[Beilin] We have done all we can to assist the PA to control the self-rule areas, but it did not deal with real seriousness with the subjects of terrorism and security. This means that it did not meet its pledges, and this was what delayed implementation of the second stage of the Oslo agreement. The delay aims to examine all issues and find real solutions that ensure putting an end to the "terrorist" operations.

[Al-Turah] Do you trust President al-Asad?

[Beilin] Not very much.

[Al-Turah] Do you trust his peace intentions?

[Beilin] All indications confirm that the Syrians have not adopted peace as a strategic option, as they have repeatedly claimed. They have not thus far done anything to promote a political settlement, and consequently confirm their desire for a true peace with Israel. The Syrians have not done anything to curb the anti-Israel terrorism carried out by Hizballah in southern Lebanon although they are capable of halting it immediately.

[Al-Turah] I do not agree with you over what you have termed terrorism, because the Lebanese are struggling to liberate their territories. Pull your troops out of southern Lebanon and the Lebanese will guarantee your security.

[Beilin] I am not negotiating with you. I am talking about a state of affairs that cannot be resolved except through negotiations.

[Al-Turah] I am not negotiating with you either. I am a journalist attempting to know the truth.

[Beilin] We do not have a quarrel with the Lebanese. I told them that once they guarantee our security, we will immediately withdraw our troops in accordance with arrangements to be agreed upon in negotiations.

[Al-Turah] What about Syria? Al-Asad has told you that he is ready for full peace in exchange for full withdrawal. You are opposed to this.

[Beilin] We have endorsed withdrawal on the Golan.

[Al-Turah] Withdrawal on the Golan, or withdrawal from the Golan?

[Beilin] A withdrawal on the Golan to be agreed in negotiations.

[Al-Turah] Al-Asad has said that he is ready for full peace if you return all the Syrian territory you have occupied. You have not agreed to this.

[Beilin] Are you negotiating with me on al-Asad's behalf? I am not negotiating with you. We are ready to discuss everything, but at the negotiating table. The issue is not that simple. There are arrangements that need to be set up and measures that need to be taken.

[Al-Turah] Once again, you have said that you are not negotiating with me. I am only asking you questions. I am seeking answers to these questions.

[Beilin] I did not think that our interview would be that long. It seems that I will not accept to be delayed any longer.

[Al-Turah] I have only one question left. When do you expect to have peace with Syria?

[Beilin] I believe that foot-dragging is not in the interest of peace or the Syrians. We are ready to sign a peace treaty with the Syrians immediately. It depends on them, and on their desire for peace and for entering into serious negotiations.

[Al-Turah] What do you have to say to the Jordanian people?

[Beilin] I believe that peace will bring a great deal of well-being and hope to the Jordanian and Israeli people. People will not reap the dividends of peace overnight. Nonetheless, I am certain that the future will bring prosperity to the two peoples, who have transcended hostility and exchanged war for peace, which we all seek to promote. Thank you.

Intelligence Chief on Syria-Iran Peace Contacts

TA1807161395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Moshe Ya'alon, the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, says Syria has recently held contacts with Iran on a possible peace agreement with Israel. Iran and Hizballah understand that if a peace agreement is signed between Israel and Syria, a similar agreement will be signed with Lebanon, in which case they will have to curb their activity. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session today:

[Begin Nir recording] This was the first appearance by the new head of IDF Intelligence in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Ya'alon was warmly praised for his businesslike presentation and his familiarity with the material, although he has been serving in this role for only one month.

Ya'alon divulged that Syria is holding talks with Iran over peace with Israel and curbing Hizballah. Syria even informed Iran that after an agreement is signed, Hizballah will have to tone down its activities. Iran's answer was positive.

Another issue raised by Ya'alon was the reserved attitude evinced by part of the Syrian officer corps to the peace process. He said there is a problem in the Syrian Army; doubts are being raised and peace is not taken for granted. While in Washington, Syrian Chief of Staff al-Shihabi referred to problems in the Syrian Army. At the same time this does not amount to a mutiny or a crisis, but rather only to doubts. President al-Asad has ordered an indoctrination campaign in the Syrian Army, the Ba'th Party, and the schools.

As for the halt in the talks, Gen. Ya'alon said it is not clear whether this amounts to tactics or to more than that. It is not clear whether Syria is awaiting the completion of the talks with the Palestinians, or whether this stems from Israel's refusal to accept the Syrian demands. At the same time, it is clear that Syrian interest in the peace process has not changed. In the contacts, Syria continues to insist on two points: an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 line and opposition to an Israeli early warning station on the Golan Heights after the withdrawal.

Turning to the Palestinian issue, Gen. Ya'alon said the Palestinian Authority was never as strong as it is currently. He claims the cessation of terrorism, among other things, stems from the successful activity of the Palestinian security service and the major achievements of the Israeli Shin Bet. In this respect, Ya'alon said that Israeli security forces have detained approximately 1,200 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members. The third reason contributing to the halt in attacks is serious doubts within Hamas, which fears that a resumption of the attacks will alienate it from most of the Palestinian public, which supports the peace process.

The head of Shin Bet also appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. He said that approximately 200 Palestinian security service members operate in Jerusalem today, mainly due to the fact that Israel Police carry out very little activity in East Jerusalem. Jibril al-Rujub's men have filled this vacuum created in East Jerusalem. [end recording]

Editorial: Little Progress on Syrian Front

TA1807092195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
18 Jul 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Ridges, Assets, and Relationships"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Uri Sagi, former head of the General Staff Intelligence Branch, can note with satisfaction that he did not miss anything as a result of his door-slamming departure last month. Sagi was not appointed head of the officers delegation to the talks with the Syrian generals, but President al-Asad has been holding up the dispatch of his officers to the talks anyway.

The present obstacle is the question of where—or who will man—the early warning systems Israel needs against surprise attacks. Although no such attack was carried out when the Golan was in Syrian hands in 1967, it has been the Israeli military strategists' main nightmare since the 1973 war. The Israeli Government will have both substantive and political difficulty explaining any abandonment of land-based early warning assets on the Golan ridges and the Hermon.

Since al-Asad realizes that the security part of the territories-for-peace arrangement is a must for any Jerusalem government and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff and that intelligence warning is vital for a rapid transition from the regular army's routine operations to an emergency setup and the mobilization of reserve troops, he is supposed to understand that no Israeli Cabinet will commit the folly of divesting the country of all its alert assets. The question, therefore, is whether the mountain early warning stations can be replaced by adequate aerial alternatives or whether a compromise will be reached that will leave some of the stations on the ground but with foreign—American, for instance—manpower.

Those who want the bargaining to progress will find a creative solution to this issue. The U.S. reluctance to make proposals of its own has been due solely to the fact that Secretary of State Christopher's rear engine has not been ignited yet. Furthermore, the pointed signals sent by Prime Minister Rabin have discouraged any such bridging intervention at the present stage of the Israeli-Syrian dialogue. We can guess that al-Asad's bookkeeping contains two balance sheets—a U.S. and an Israeli one. Unless the Clinton administration expresses unequivocal readiness to reward Syria economically and technologically, al-Asad will not sign a peace treaty with Israel even in return for the Golan, and unless he is certain that such a peace will get him the Golan, there will be no deal.

The first conclusion is that Clinton will be able to play his part in the arrangement only if he garners the support of his Republican adversaries and gives them their share in the glory of having settled the conflict between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. Another conclusion is that al-Asad is extremely concerned that by the time the implementation of the agreement with Israel is due, Jerusalem will be ruled by a government—supported by an either weak or isolationist U.S. Administration—that will look for an excuse to invalidate it.

Internal polls do not herald an edge for the Rabin-led bloc, and the prospects of increasing that edge next year—particularly if the IDF redeploys in the West Bank and appalling terror attacks are resumed—are slim. The inclusion of new ministers, Baraq and Beilin, will temporarily invigorate the weary government, but a sober analysis of the state of the political process may warrant an initiative on the part of Rabin to act for early elections and to accelerate the next stages of the process with Syria and the Palestinians.

F-16's Collide Near Nahariyya; 2 Men Missing

TA1807111895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Early this morning, two Israel Air Force [IAF] F—16 fighter jets collided off the coast of Nahariyya. The pilot and navigator from one plane are missing and, according to the prime minister, the two men were killed. The missing crew members are the squadron commander, Lieutenant Colonel Roni Shlomi, 33, from Mishmar Ha'emeq, and navigator Yuval Binyamin, a 24-year-old from Jerusalem. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the second air crew was safely rescued.

The IAF commander has appointed a committee to investigate the circumstances of the collision. Major General Herzl Budinger said that the accident appears to be the result of human error rather than a technical malfunction.

Beilin, Baraq Sworn In as Ministers

TA1807141495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yosi Beilin has been sworn in as minister of economy and planning and Ehud Baraq as minister of the interior after the Knesset approved their appointment. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that 53 Knesset members voted in favor, 33 voted against, and 3 abstained.

Tomb Site 'Stormed' by Israeli Settlers

JN1807155295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Report by Sa'id 'Ayyad in Bethlehem]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Extremist settlers, led by Israeli Knesset member Avner Sciaki of the radical National Religious Party, stormed Rachel's Tomb in the city of Bethlehem this afternoon, violating the status of the religious site that is used for burying Muslim citizens. Occupation forces in the area did not budge. [passage omitted]

These provocations by the settlers came as part of a wave of protest against a possible Israeli withdrawal from the city of Bethlehem, where Palestinian—Israeli negotiations are being held on this issue. [passage omitted]

Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism and antiquities, condemned the settlers' violations, stressing that this will increase tension in the region. He said that after spreading its sovereignty over the area, the Palestinian National Authority will ensure freedom for everybody to have access to the site.

NRP: No-Confidence Motion Over Tomb Issue

TA1907110995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jul 95 p 7

[Report by Tal Shahaf and Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] faction submitted a no-confidence motion against the government yesterday in the wake of what it terms "the government's inclination and plans to transfer Rachel's Tomb and access to the site to the Palestinian Authority."

Yesterday, following an NRP protest march held from Gilo Junction to Rachel's Tomb, Knesset Member [MK] Zvulun Hammer, chairman of the NRP, said: "It is amazing how easily the government is willing to give up the sites holiest to Judaism. This is unforgivable." MK Yig'al Bibi, chairman of the NRP faction, said that if the PLO flag is hoisted over Rachel's Tomb, he will not hesitate to take it down himself.

The NRP is demanding that the issue of Rachel's Tomb be eliminated from the political negotiations and that territorial and security continuity from Jerusalem to Rachel's Tomb be ensured.

Police Hold 20 Hebron Jews After Confrontation

TA1607100195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty Hebron Jewish settlers, most of them minors, are still in police custody following their confrontation last night with Judaea and Samaria District policemen. Police sources told our correspondent Gil Litman that the Hebron settlers were not released because they refused to identify themselves and did not cooperate with the investigators.

The settlers demonstrated near the military governor's building in Hebron against the detention of a Bet Hadassah youth. The youth was detained after an Arab complained he shot pins at him with a sling. The settlers claim this is a false accusation.

Officers Announce Refusal To Evacuate West Bank

TA1907103695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reserve captains and majors, including one pilot, announced at a news conference in Jerusalem that they will refuse to report for reserve duty because they will not serve in an army that proposes to implement the policy of evacuating Judaea and Samaria. They said that if called up for reserve service, they will report in uniform and inform the army that they would rather be sent to the stockade than serve in the reserves. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the news conference was called by the right-wing Hay Veqayam movement.

IDF Redeployment Costs, Water Claims Criticized

TA1707085095 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to Yedi'ot Aharonot, July 16, 1995, the partial redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] as is stipulated in the current phase of negotiations with the PLO will cost no less than two and a half billion shekels.

Avraham Shohat, Minister of Finance, has warned Rabin that the current expenses will destabilize the whole Israel economy. Shohat is calling for the Defense Ministry to absorb some of the additional costs by shifting around defense priorities.

In the meantime, 150,000,000 shekels has already been allocated for the police to secure more police patrols along the green line border towns with Qalqilyah and other towns which will soon be handed over to the control of Yasir 'Arafat.

Shohat has reiterated his support for the "peace" process, saying that he "hopes financial considerations will not hurt the negotiations".

Marathon negotiations are continuing in Zikhron Ya'aqov between Israelis and the PLO. The main issue currently being discussed is the water control in the PLO administered areas. Israel receives more than one third of its water supply from underground water reservoirs in the "territories". Israel is prepared to give the Arabs control over the land, however, refuses to allow the Arabs to control the water. Judean Voice Commentary:

Labor leaders are prepared to reshape Israel's security priorities and destabilize the economy in order to implement part of the Oslo accords. They have not even begun to speak about the final costs of redeployment after the next stage of negotiations or about reparations to the "settlers" who they will obviously evacuate from various areas at a later date. This has nothing to do with the billions of dollars required to redeploy in the Golan, if negotiations are put on track with the Syrians.

When Israel started the current "peace" process, Rabin and Peres helped sell the suicidal deal to the public by lying about the tremendous financial dividends Israel would soon receive by making "peace". Welcome to the real world. This "peace" process will not only cripple Israel from a security perspective but also cause a deadly blow to Israel's economy.

As for control of the water, while the Arabs control the land, tell me another story. The water is in the land, the pipelines run through and on the land. How is Israel going to control the water without controlling the land? Remember, Israel has serious water shortages to begin with. If Israel relinquishes the Golan, she will be parting from another one third of her total water supply, thus leaving 2/3 of her water supply behind enemy lines.

Eventually, as the PLO Authority turns more and more into an independent "Palestine" state, the world community will expect Israel to "return" the infrastructure and natural resources back to the "Palestinians". Israel will be forced by international law to leave themselves at the mercy of the PLO and the Syrians for water. Any Israeli steps taken to secure the free flow of water from behind enemy lines will be considered an act of war. The Arabs are succeeding in reducing Israel into a tiny, defenseless and divided country before the next war.

Rabin would like the residents of Kefar Saba to sleep tight at night, despite the fact that he is bringing the PLO Autonomy within spitting range. If 'Arafat is so peaceful than why did the Cabinet just allocate another

150 million shekels for the defense of the new border area?

SHAS Party Leader on Meeting With King Husayn

MM1907105695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "King Husayn Receives SHAS Leader"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Arye Der'i, leader of the Israeli SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party, stressed yesterday that Israel is willing to pay "a high price" for the sake of peace with Syria. He told AL-HAYAH following his meeting with King Husayn that "the Israeli people are happy and congratulate themselves on the conclusion of the peace (treaty) with Jordan, not only because the price we paid for the peace with Jordan was not high, but also because we are willing to pay a higher price for the sake of the peace with Syria."

The leader of the party, which has not yet decided whether to ally itself with the Labor Party in the general elections in Israel, added that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad "is making a mistake when he refrains from addressing Israeli public opinion."

He said that the Syrian president "would be mistaken if he thought that it is possible to conclude a peace (agreement) without the Israeli people's backing and support."

On his talks with the Jordanian monarch, Der'i, who headed a 24- member delegation to Amman, said that he told King Husayn that the Israeli people "like you and wish to see you in Israel." He said that Rabbi Ofadya Yosef, spiritual leader of SHAS, sent a letter to King Husayn in which he stressed "his support for the peace with Jordan" and sought "the king's mediation to promote peace with the other Arab states."

Analyst Notes Importance of Security, Water

TA1407110395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jul 95 p 11

[Article by Dore Gold, director of the U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy Project at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies: "Minefields in the Talks Are on Land and Water"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Negotiators struggling to complete international agreements normally have to ask themselves two main questions. Is there sufficient basis for bridging the differences between the parties? And if the other side is still somewhat dissatisfied with the outcome, what can be done in the event that the impending agreement is violated?

This latter point is especially salient, since Israel has had a yearlong experience with such violations during the first Gaza-Jericho phase. At this stage, it appears that the Rabin government is convinced that the differences between Israel and the Palestinians over the implementation of phase two of the Oslo agreement in the West Bank can be surmounted. While a public text of what has been agreed upon is not available, sufficient information has emerged to raise serious questions about how Israel can handle its conflicts with the Palestinians after any new treaty is signed and implemented.

First, security is unquestionably the most explosive area. There has been a hiatus in terrorist incidents after the upsurge of lethal bus bombings of 1994 and early 1995. Since the Palestinian Authority [PA] has not disarmed its fundamentalist opposition and not directly clashed with its most prominent armed wing, the 'Izz- al-Din al-Qassam units, the current break in attacks seems to have more to do with the tactical considerations of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad than the efforts of Arafat's security forces.

What happens when their calculations change? Will the new agreement allow the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to provide security? The security factor is made up of both active and passive elements. The quality of the IDF's active response will depend on its ability to gather intelligence and preempt attacks; both of these will be highly constrained in the territories after any new agreement.

On the passive side, it is important to remember that Gaza and Jericho were relatively easy to isolate with roadblocks, patrols and fences. But the situation in other West Bank cities will be very different. One of the most glaring disclosures made by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last week was that these will not necessarily be enclosed by such roadblocks.

If this is indeed incorporated into the upcoming agreement, terrorists will be able to move freely in vehicles from areas of Palestinian security control into areas of Israeli control. True, as long as Israel is conceding land and the Palestinian zone of control is growing, their motivation for attacks will be reduced. But what happens when pauses in the process occur? 'Arafat and his opposition will face a dilemma: Will further withdrawals be renewed by assuring Israel security or by the pressure of repeated attacks?

It is possible that Israeli planners are hoping that by retaining IDF responsibility in the villages around the cities, any general deterioration in the security situation can be contained. But, according to newspaper reports, these village areas are to be patrolled as well by Palestinian police, albeit only for purposes of assuring public order.

But if the Gaza-Jericho phase serves as a precedent, it can be expected that the PA will seek to constantly enlarge the numbers and scope of authority of its police in these areas — indeed, the PA has already pushed security personnel into eastern Jerusalem.

Police numbers in Gaza mushroomed from the 9,000 allotted by agreement to nearly 25,000. Unless there is a determined will to counter this sort of development, Israel's status in the village areas could quickly erode.

Also, unlike the situation in Gaza-Jericho, water is fast becoming a central issue in this second phase of Oslo.

Estimates vary, but approximately 30 percent of Israel's water supply comes from water that flows through underground West Bank aquifers. (Another 30 percent coming from Galilee is affected by the Golan negotiations.) Water dependence does not necessarily have to lead to conflict if both parties come to an understanding.

At present, Israel uses far greater amounts of West Bank water than the Palestinians, and the Rabin government is not interested in altering that ratio. But the Palestinians have made it clear over the years that they do not accept the status quo on water usage. Their per-capita need for water can be expected to grow with economic development. Moreover, if they hope to resettle hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees in the territories, their demand for water will surge. Finally, control of natural resources is a basic expression of national sovereignty — and that, after all, is the PA's ultimate goal.

A classified study prepared by the Israel Water Authority, which Ze'ev Schiff disclosed in HA'ARETZ on October 8, 1993, detailed the water problem in the West Bank for future negotiators. It warned that Israel must control distinct portions of western Samaria in order to prevent excessive Palestinian utilization of the Yarqon- Tanninim Aquifer, which supplies drinking water to Jerusalem and the coastal plain.

But in order to facilitate agreement on redeployment, Israel will be withdrawing from Qalqilyah and Tulkarm, which sit right on top of this aquifer. What will the IDF do if unauthorized wells are drilled on land where the PA has been given virtually full control? Will the IDF intervene in order to put a stop to the exploitation of water that the PA views as a national right? When asked this question in a meeting with the opposition on Wednesday, Rabin reportedly admitted: "Indeed, there is truly a problem in the area of water."

Ultimately, the struggle over security control and water is part of a larger question of the territorial extent of any Palestinian entity. Should the process break down at a later date, and the PA seek recognition of its statehood, it will have already fulfilled most of the basic preconditions of what constitutes a state under internal law: permanent population, government and a capacity to enter into relations with other states.

Only its territorial boundaries will be in question. Here, the extent of the PA's actual administrative control will guide the response of the international community. In that sense, the details of the transfer of powers to the Palestinians are not just an obscure discussion between IDF and PA jurists, but could be the basis for delineating the actual borders of Israel in the future.

What is clear from the past is that this division of powers may result as much from the unilateral acts of the PA as from what is written in any treaty.

Draft Trade Accord With EU Detailed

TA1907090195 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1616 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Communication released by the Foreign Ministry spokesman; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Last night, 17.7.95, the European Union's Council of Ministers approved the draft of a trade agreement between Israel and the European Union [EU]. The new agreement will apparently be signed in October 1995, and be brought for the approval of the parliaments of EU member states, following its approval by the European Parliament. The decision to approve the draft prevented a crisis in economic relations between Israel and the European Union, particularly in the sphere of agriculture.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the decision is an important milestone in relations between Israel and Europe — paving the way for a comprehensive agreement on matters of trade, research and development, and financial services between Israel and Europe. The Israeli economy has taken a great step forward en route to integration and closer ties with one of the three main blocs in the new international economic order that has been created in recent years.

The agreement — and primarily the sections dealing with government procurement, and with research and development — will enable increased cooperation between the private sectors of both Israel and the European Union, and will decrease Israel's negative balance of trade with the EU (which is approaching an annual total of $8 billion).

The negotiations were conducted by Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General for Economic Affairs 'Oded Eran and Mordekhay Drori, Israel's ambassador to the EU Institutions in Brussels — in cooperation with the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Agriculture, and Science.

The agreement's major components are as follows:

— Expansion of the free trade area: This will enable the export of larger quantities of agricultural produce in fields which the agricultural sector has developed over the past few years (in order to overcome the problems posed by water shortages). Primary effected will be flowers, peeled fruits and grapes. Israel agreed to reduce its quota of oranges delivered to EU countries from 300,000 to 200,000 tons.

— General updating of the original document: This comes as a result of changes in Israeli industry, which has mostly moved to advanced manufacturing technologies. This will improve the competitive capability of Israeli industry within European markets.

— Government procurement: Negotiations will be conducted on the opening of the government procurement market — under preferred terms — primarily in the field of telecommunications.

— Research and development: It was agreed to include Israel in committees administering European Union research and development projects; Israel will not have voting rights.

Spokesman Briefs Results of al-Kabariti's Trip

JN1807171995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Statement by Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, head of the House Foreign Relations Committee, on the committee's 18 July interpellation of Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti on the results of his recent visit to Saudi Arabia; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In compliance with the desires of its members, the Foreign Relations Committee invited His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti to brief it on the latest political developments related to our country.

In fact, a meeting was held this morning in the presence of House Speaker Eng. Sa'd al-Surur, some ministers, and members of the Foreign Relations Committee. Three main issues were discussed. First, the results of the foreign minister's visit to fraternal Saudi Arabia.

No doubt, and as is known by everyone, the Jordanian people are awaiting the results of this visit because they believe in the importance and depth of bilateral relations which will have a good impact on the entire nation, particularly on both countries. The Jordanian people have always been concerned over the lukewarm bilateral relations and have been aspiring and hoping that the tense relations will end and that they will return to normal.

God be praised, the meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was a blessed one. Al-Kabariti; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan, Saudi second deputy prime minister; and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, honestly and profoundly reviewed the importance of bilateral relations and how to return them to normal. This is because estrangement weakens both countries, and everyone is aware of the threats posed to our nation.

In recent years, there were negative economic, social, and political results which have adversely affected the whole Arab nation. However, it was recently noted that there was a clear activity in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula countries. Jordan held contacts with Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain. Yemen held contacts with Saudi Arabia. God be praised, we circumvented the Yemeni-Saudi crisis. [passage omitted]

In fact, we were reassured that coordination will be enhanced. The Saudi borders and markets will be opened to our products. The Saudi ambassador will return to Amman and he will be welcome in his second country. Moreover, there will be some facilities regrading travel between Jordan and Saudi Arabia and other walks of life. God willing, these will be among the results of this visit. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Addresses Israeli SHAS Delegation

JN1807185195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Speech by King Husayn to a delegation from the leadership of the Israeli SHAS (Torah Observing Sephardim) Movement at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 18 July — recorded, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] I am very proud and very, very happy on this occasion to have the opportunity to welcome good friends here in this Jordanian house in the capital city of Amman.

I'd like to say how deeply touched I am by your warm feelings expressed in words that I shall remember and which I find not strange in the least, since my faith and religion and my convictions that I have learned through life shows me clearly that all of us in the final analysis act in this world and all of us belong to one family, and all of us are strengthened in times of difficulty and in the face of challenges by the words of our one God.

And it's our sacred duty to do whatever we can to ensure that the children of Abraham and their descendants live in peace and security and live together and work together for a better future for our region, for our people, and for the world in which we live.

I know so much of what you stand for and what you are trying to achieve, and you have from me my respect and my support. I'd like to thank you for the kind message relating to peace between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel.

We're almost on the verge of celebrating the anniversary of the Washington Declaration which was worked out between us on both sides in all its details, and which was a beginning of our accomplishing a lifelong dream seeking God's blessings and the fulfillment of our duties towards generations to come.

Whatever we have achieved so far, we have done so ahead of time, ahead of schedule, or on time. And my feelings vary between wondering whether we are moving too fast—when I look at what has been accomplished by us coming together and talking about problems and our visions and the future—yet I feel at the same time that maybe it is not fast enough because so much time has been lost, so much dear blood has been shed, so many opportunities have been lost, so much suffering has occurred.

And so rest assured that I'm totally committed to the cause of peace between us, and I'm totally committed to making the real peace a peace between people, a peace between cousins, a peace that enables one of us to see another and to realize that our challenges are the same, our hopes are the same, our aspirations are one and the same. Our origins are the same, and we worship the one God.

I hope that it will be a warm peace, a peace that brings together the talents and abilities of our people, the generations to come to build and achieve something that is worthy of all of us and of them. And I hope that it will be a strong cornerstone in a comprehensive peace in this region, which is long overdue. So, with pride and with pleasure I assure you that we consider ourselves brethren in God working for the same objectives and seeking His blessings and His support to enable us to achieve those worthy objectives.

I'm very deeply grateful by this very kind letter that I have received and I can only reiterate my commitment to do whatever I can to help and to contribute towards the creation of the long-sought just and lasting peace, comprehensive peace between all of us in this entire region.

We welcome you very heartedly, and we hope that we'll the opportunities in the future to meet again. And obviously I will prepare an answer which I hope I will be able to have conveyed very soon to this very, very kind message that you carried for me. Thank you very much.

Equal Israeli Treatment on Land Sale Favored

JN1807113595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Sa'eda Kilani, "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Parliamentary committees on Monday [17 July] voted in favour of conditioning land sale to the Israelis to equal, reciprocal treatment.

On its fourth meeting to review a draft law that repeals boycott of Israel, the Lower House of Parliament's joint Judiciary and Financial Committees introduced several amendments to the draft law that would make land sale to Israelis contingent on Israel making the same provision in its related legislation.

The chairman of the House's Judiciary Committee, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim Faysal Dayfallah Dughmi, told the Jordan Times Monday that the amendments, that increase restrictions on land sale to foreigners, will be worked out in a joint meeting on Thursday between the chairmen of both committees.

"These amendments are only aimed at putting some sort of a safeguard to protect Jordanian land and the Jordanian economy against foreign hegemony," said Dr. Dughmi, "But at the same time we tried to make the provisions balanced out so as not to influence prospects of investment in the Kingdom."

Several experts testified at the committees' meetings including ministers, economists and experts in international law. Dr. Dughmi said the observations made by the experts were very useful to the House's work especially in terms of the repercussions of selling land to foreigners on the Jordanian economy. He said that the approved amendments were "very well balanced out."

"We made sure that the restrictions put on land sale to foreigners do not hamper investment in the country that is vital to its economic growth," Dr. Dughmi said.

But Dr. Hammam 'Abd-al-Rahim Sa'id, a member of the House's Judiciary Committee, said that the law, regardless of the proposed amendments, was detrimental to the country's national interests.

"We are against the law in principle," said Deputy Sa'id of the Islamic Action Front. "If this law was approved, then it will have grave consequences on the country's national interests."

Although they participated in all the previous meetings held on the draft law, the 16-member Islamic Action Front deputies withdrew from Monday's meeting.

Dr. Sa'id said that the enactment of the law would open the door for foreign and Israeli hegemony over the country. He said that Jordan still has sovereignty over Jerusalem and the West Bank in international terms and opening land sale to Israelis meant that Arab territories in Jerusalem and the West Bank would be sold to Israel.

Jordan severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988.

"If the door was opened for land sale for foreigners, it would mean that many other concessions will follow," Dr. Sa'id said.

In the Parliament's session at the end of last month, opposition deputies, headed by the IAF's 16-member bloc, managed only 21 votes against 46 in favour of referring the draft law to the joint Judiciary and Financial Committees.

While Islamist deputies strongly fought against the draft law in principle, centrist deputies called for conditioning land sale to Israel with reciprocal action from the Jewish state.

They argued that the Israeli government owns 93 per cent of the land in the Jewish state and bans the sale of private ownership to foreigners. The Israeli real estate market is closed to all foreigners in accordance with Israeli laws.

Dr. Dughmi asserted that the new amendments added to the draft law included all forms of safeguards against any future manipulation of the law and that all land sale or lease to foreigners will be controlled by the government.

The Islamic deputies had also exerted several attempts in the past to block or postpone the discussion of the draft law.

The draft law is expected to be referred to the House next week. On the House's agenda at the moment is the draft labour law with 108 out of its 145 articles approved. On Wednesday's agenda is a 35-article draft law on the environment that is not expected to draw extensive debate.

First Shipment of Medical Aid Sent to Bosnia

JN1807193295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In implementation of His Majesty King Husayn's directives to provide every possible aid to the Muslims of Bosnia and as part of the urgent humanitarian aid extended by the official and private institutions in the Kingdom, the Ministry of Health dispatched the first medical shipment to Bosnia today.

Health Minister Dr. 'Arif al-Batayinah said this shipment includes medical equipment, medicines, baby milk, intravenous solutions, and bandage and health needs. He added that another shipment will be dispatched tomorrow. It includes various medical needs.

Dr. al-Batayinah pointed out that the Health Ministry will do its utmost to support the Bosnian brothers and supply them with their medical needs. He asserted that today's shipment was coordinated with the private sector, the Royal Medical Services, and the Hashemite charity organization.

Paper Hails King's Efforts

JN1807192195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jul 95 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "UN Credibility on Touchstone in Bosnia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The active campaign led by His Majesty King Husayn since the fall of the UN-protected safe haven in Srebrenica in the Serbian hands two weeks ago aims to rescue the prestige, credibility, and respect of the international organization and a fraternal Muslim people from an ugly ethnic cleansing operation that encroached on human sanctity.

Within the framework of this campaign, his majesty contacted the world leaders, starting with French President Chirac, and then Turkish President Demirel yesterday. Within the same framework, his majesty recently summoned ambassadors of the permanent Security Council member states, Her Majesty Queen Nur addressed a message to wives of presidents of Arab and Islamic states on the same subject, and the House of Representatives made an effort in the same direction.

The blind incidents from which the Bosnian Muslims suffer have nothing to do with international law. We do not exaggerate if we say that these incidents have no relations with human civilization and the civilized society to which humanity reached late in the 20th century.

His Majesty King Husayn's campaign emphasizes the dire need for a quick help to the Bosnian Muslims that differentiates between the humanitarian and both the political and military aspects of the Bosnian crisis in order to rescue the man as a value, and even the most important and noblest value on earth.

His majesty's campaign also emphasizes the dire need for rescuing the prestige and credibility of the United Nations. The credibility of the international organization should be quickly activated in the protection of the safehavens in Bosnia, otherwise, the oppressed peoples will never find any party that protects them if the United Nations fails to adhere to its charter. The UN inability and the failure of UN credibility do not augur well for any new world order after the collapse of the dual-pole order, but threaten of an international chaos in which the law of the jungle prevails.

The collapse of UN credibility in the Bosnian safe heavens has come after the collapse of this credibility and the credibility of the safe havens in Iraq, where the Iraqi Kurds are suffering from insecurity and instability since the United Nations separated this part of their homeland from the central authority in Baghdad. The tanks of the regional powers have been stamping on the international law since 1991.

King Husayn's campaign deserves quick Arab, Islamic, and international response that rescues man in Bosnia on the one hand, and restores UN prestige on the other.

Minister Cited on Building Oil Pipeline From Iraq

JN1907104195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jul pp 1, 21

[Report by Iyad al-Waqfi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, said that some international firms will embark on building a huge oil pipeline linking Iraq and Jordan during the next three months.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, he said that the importance of the project lies in the fact that it will reduce the total cost of transporting crude oil from Iraq to Jordan by tankers, currently estimated at JD [dinar] 30 million. [passage omitted]

[In its 19 July issue, AL-RA'Y publishes on its front page the following clarification of the above item: Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, has clarified that studies are currently underway to build an oil pipeline from Iraq to al-Zarqa' in Jordan and that these studies will be finished in three months. This clarification was made in light of what was published yesterday on the execution of the project]

Fadlallah Views Peace Prospects, 'Resistance'

NC1807151195 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 2

[Interview with Hizballah's "Spiritual Leader" Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Yasir Tal'at in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tal'at] You believe that the peace process needs time and that peace with Israel cannot be entered into without a plan that prepares the Arabs for peace. What is your position on this, now that we are in the middle of the peace process?

[Fadlallah] Ideas need time. When changes occur, we are prompted to rethink and analyze the new situation, and more so when the matter is fateful and concerns the history of an entire nation. Therefore, we see the Arab world today entering the peace arena with Israel without feeling it can freely express its view on peace. Do you think the Arabs were asked whether they want peace with Israel? Of course not. This is because there is no regional balance of power. It is now difficult for any party in the region take the upper hand. Also, the Arab stand is weakened by internal conflicts.

[Tal'at] Israel said it will raise the issue of Hizballah during its talks with Syria. Comment on this, please.

[Fadlallah] Hizballah is the national resistance. That Israel is troubled by the resistance in Lebanon and Palestine is well-known. It wants to control the Arabs' future as it controlled their past. The Arab strugglers are also causing fear in the hearts and souls of the Israelis. This is why Israel is pressuring Syria to pressure the resistance, as if the resistance is a card that is not in Syria's hand. This is absurd. Syria is pressuring the resistance because it is not a card in its hand and because the Israeli occupation continues. [last three sentences as published]

Thus, the Israelis are in a major political quandary. Also, their domestic situation is confused. Therefore, those who say the resistance is futile should study the political reality and see how many Arab positions benefit from the resistance and its actions in the negotiations.

[Tal'at] Do you regard the settlements and the Arab-Israeli peace agreements as the end of the road?

[Fadlallah] We do not regard these settlements as the end of the road but merely a temporary truce until the Arab and Islamic worlds wake up. We believe that the resistance remains vital and necessary for the political situation and the jihad. According to our observation, the recent Syrian-Israeli talks at the chiefs of staff level in Washington achieved some security arrangements but have not yet achieved a major agreement.

[Tal'at] What will be Hizballah's position and fate when the Syrian-Israeli peace agreement is signed?

[Fadlallah] Hizballah's resistance to Israel will not stop before Israel withdraws from Lebanese territories. The liberation of Palestine will take a long time. Why should we talk about issues that do not concern us?

Of course, the objective of liberating Palestine will remain. It just needs time. Until then, the resistance leadership will remain free. Freedom in Lebanon gives meaning to the entity of Lebanon. There is no Lebanon without freedom and the Lebanese will only live when they are free.

Credit external forces for this, not the Lebanese people. Various foreign powers compete in Lebanon. This is why Lebanon is important to them.

On the continuance of the resistance, this must be studied based on the nature of the developments, changes, and transient conditions. If there is a settlement, then the Islamists must study their options; it might be possible for jihad action, but in a new and different way.

[Tal'at] Do you expect the Arab-Israeli settlement to be finalized soon?

[Fadlallah] I rule out this year as the year of settlement in light of the Israeli election complications and the U.S. election conditions, as well as other conditions that accompany these elections. All this confirms that settlement will not be a quick process.

[Tal'at] How do you view Jerusalem?

[Fadlallah] Jerusalem is Palestine for us. Palestine summarizes the history of the Arab and Islamic nation. It has a special status in our hearts.

[Tal'at] How do you view the resistance in Palestine after the establishment of Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho?

[Fadlallah] Palestinian autonomy is coming under U.S., Israeli, and even Arab pressure. The Israeli pressures try to turn this authority into a policeman that will fight the Islamists, chase them in the streets, and then arrest them. The Palestinian Authority [PA] must cooperate with the Palestinian resistance in the interest of the Palestinian people and the Islamists in Palestine. We have contacts with Hamas and others. We are ready to hold dialogue with the head of the PA, Yasir 'Arafat, in the interest of Palestine. I advise the Islamists in Palestine not to fall into the trap of inter-Palestinian disputes. If circumstances compel them to freeze their activities, then they should.

[Tal'at] What is your vision of Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] We look to the future with great apprehension, because the Lebanese are not people of decision. They submit to decisions that are beyond their control but that decide their fate.

[Tal'at] You are demanding a popular referendum in Lebanon. If you win such a referendum and take over power and the presidential position, will you corner your enemies in Lebanon, since you now claim that your enemies are trying to corner you?

[Fadlallah] We believe in coexistence. We have many examples of coexistence between the Muslims and Christians, and even the Jews. The proposed popular referendum will allow for a democratic system in Lebanon. It will be difficult for one group to corner another.

[Tal'at] You are calling for an Islamic state in Lebanon. What will be the other sects' position if such a state is established?

[Fadlallah] The authority ruling a people cannot corner these people through the use of weapons. Hizballah did not choose violent means of its own accord, nor did the Phalangist Party. The international game imposed the use of violence on the Lebanese. Even the Islamic-Christian, inter-Christian, and inter-Islamic battles were imposed on us from outside. Otherwise, how could the cannons be silenced so quickly?

[Tal'at] What would be Hizballah's stance if Iran decides to stop extending material support to it?

[Fadlallah] Hizballah is a Lebanese political party. It is not subject to Iran's control. We meet with the Iranian leadership, as do all the parties in Lebanon and elsewhere who meet with those sides that have opinions similar to theirs. The parties remain even if the powers that agree with their opinion are eliminated. This is what happened to the communist parties after the former Soviet Union was fragmented and collapsed.

[Tal'at] There has been much talk about the fundamentalist current's trend toward violence. What do you have to say about this?

[Fadlallah] Violence is a Western tool, not an Islamic one. The West has used violence since colonial times. The Israeli presence in Palestine started with acts of violence. Recently, the explosion at the U.S. federal building in Oklahoma City was the best evidence of Western violence. As for the Muslims, they have always been victims of Western violence.

I refuse to say we are fundamentalists. The fundamentalist is a negative and extremist person. We call on everyone to hold dialogue—the Muslims, Christians, and Jews alike. The members of the three divine religions have coexisted under Islamic governments and states. The contrary was seen in the West. No Jews were left in Andalusia after the fall of the Islamic caliphate there.

[Tal'at] If violence by the Islamic current is a reaction and means of defense, does this mean you have legalized violence?

[Fadlallah] Why not? War is a way to legitimize violence. War is a global concept not restricted to Muslims. The media always try to suggest that 95 percent of violence is performed by the Islamic current. This is part of the Western scheme to combat any attempt at liberation.

[Tal'at] Do the Islamists have economic programs and systems that could present a solution to the economic crisis in the Arab world?

[Fadlallah] Let them return our resources and the right to exploit the natural resources our region has, including the oil wells in the Gulf. We will then find a solution to the economic crisis and realize self-sufficiency. Economic subordination leads to political subordination.

[Tal'at] Do you believe the West started violence in the Arab world?

[Fadlallah] The West imposed much on us. It does not want to let our people unite and jell. It has already done this to prevent Arab or Islamic unity of any kind. France and the United States, for example, exploit the violence in Algeria to prevent unity and solidarity among the Algerians. The United States is trying to kick Europe out of the whole Arab region.

Thus today we are experiencing a U.S.-European struggle based on exploiting our weaknesses. Some Western forces do not want to see Egypt become strong and stable, because it is a great and vanguard Arab state of 60 million people and because it is a strong African state with great influence and status.

'General Security Day' Declared on Eve of Strike

NC1807200695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Michel al-Murr has announced that tomorrow is a general security day in all parts of Lebanon. Lebanese security forces will be deployed and roadblocks and patrols will be increased to protect national security. Amid this atmosphere and on the eve of the [Labor Federation] strike, the Lebanese Army started deploying this afternoon to protect the security of the citizens and not give those who might be misled into creating disturbances or confusions the chance to do so.

Hizballah Supports Strike

*NC1807201695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1900 GMT 18 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah today announced its full support for the positions of the General Labor Federation and its call for a strike and demonstrations, as well as for its right to express its opinion. Hizballah called on the government to handle the social situation.

Cabinet Discusses Peace Process Developments

JN1807160495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers met under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. It reviewed the services, economic, and cultural committees' activities. The council discussed current developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' briefed the council on current developments and the results of visits and contacts, particularly those related to the peace process.

The Council of Minister also resumed discussion on the new tobacco law and other items on its agenda, and made the appropriate decisions on them.

Radio Criticizes Israeli 'Grumbling' Over Talks

JN1807154095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Barely a day passes without the Israeli officials grumbling about the suspension of military talks in Washington, blaming Syria for the failure of the Middle East tour by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process. The Israeli prime minister contributed to this yesterday. He allowed himself to distribute unjust accusations. It is clear that the Israeli officials want the talks with Syria to continue not out of their desire for a just and stable peace in the region, but to capitalize on these talks and to make the world believe that they are serious about achieving a comprehensive peace. This is in addition to the fact that the attempt to imply that there are differences between Syria and the U.S. Administration with the objective of obstructing what has been agreed upon at the two chiefs of staff meeting. All facts of the past years since the Madrid conference refute these claims. This is not the first time when talks between the two sides are suspended. The proof is U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's 13 tours which were basically aimed at removing the obstacles Israel used to place before the peace process.

In the past, before any tour by Christopher, Israel used to escalate the situation in southern Lebanon seriously in a way to make the U.S. envoy's mission confined to calming the situation there. During his recent tour, Christopher devoted his efforts to instill life in the two sides' talks after Israel foiled the meeting of two chiefs of staff in Washington. At the time, Israel was represented by former Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq who showed all kinds of intransigence and arrogance and came up with impossible conditions which do not only encroach on Syria's sovereignty, but also constitute a flagrant interference in its internal affairs.

The two chiefs of staff's second meeting, at which Israel was represented by Amnon Shahaq, was characterized by seriousness, and touched on the major issues of security arrangements. Despite this, the Israeli rulers were not satisfied. The proof is that they have once again begun to come up with impossible security conditions since Dennis Ross set foot in Tel Aviv. Such a stand, in Syria's viewpoint, is aimed at undermining the progress that has been achieved, returning things to square one, and capitalizing on the talks which were held on a high-ranking level in order to delude the world public opinion.

What annoys the Israeli officials are certainly their failure in imposing their conditions on Syria and Lebanon; and Syria's adherence to the stand that both countries are equal, to the formula of honorable peace, and the UN Security Council resolutions governing the peace process. Syria has rejected any Israeli presence on the Golan regardless of how limited or small it is, and under any name, including that of early warning. It considered this as an entrenchment of occupation in one way or another, and an attempt to encroach on its sovereignty and dignity. Syria has also adhered to the principle of equitable [mutakafi'ah] and even [muta'adilah] security arrangements on both sides of the 4 June 1967 lines.

Israel's rulers now claim that they were surprised by the Syrian stand. In fact, they were not surprised at all. This is because Syria explained thousands of times to all the parties concerned that it will not relinquish one inch of the Golan, that it will not accept the occupation of one meter of the Golan, and that the Israeli withdrawal should be full and complete so that the Israeli forces will withdraw to their previous lines of 4 June 1967, and so that the security arrangements will be equitable and even following this withdrawal.

In order to find a ground for the launching of serious negotiations, it has been decided that negotiations be resumed on the ambassadors level in order to discuss the elements of security arrangements. When an agreement is reached on these elements, or on anyone of them, the talks can be resumed on the military experts level to find the applied practical equivalent [al-muradif al-'amali al-tatbiqi] to the agreement which will have been reached on the political level. Everyone knows that Syria is concerned about advancing the peace process, and about securing the conditions which are necessary for its success based on respect for and the implementation of the international resolutions, and guaranteeing all sides' rights, security, and dignity.

Seminar Hails al-Asad's Rejection of 'U.S. Pressures'

JN1807135695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Cable to President al-Asad from participants in "The Lebanese Prisoners' Day" seminar held in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The participants in the seminar would like to address their most heartfelt greetings to you. They would like to express their appreciation of your courageous stands, as manifested in your leading steadfast Syria, in your adherence to Arab rights in the face of U.S. pressures and Israeli blackmail, and also in your determination to bring about the dismantlement of the Israeli occupation of the Golan without any conditions that could infringe on national sovereignty.

Your support for the fraternal Lebanese people has enabled them to close their ranks and confront Israeli aggressions. Likewise, your support for the Lebanese resistance has allowed it to perform its legitimate duty of resisting the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and consolidated the Lebanese consensus on the need to bring about an end to the Israeli occupation without any infringement on the Lebanese national sovereignty. Moreover, your support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, strengthens the Palestinian national resistance and prompts it to persist with resistance until victory.

The cable was signed by the following organizations:

The Committee for the Defense of the Arab Prisoners and Detainees Held in Israeli Jails
The Arab Writers Union
The Arab Lawyers Union
The Syrian Lawyers Association
The Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Iraq
The Committee for the Defense of Lebanese Prisoners
The Committee for the Defense of Arab Prisoners and Detainees
The Syria mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross
The Follow-Up Committee for Supporting the Cause of Lebanese Prisoners

India

Editorial Cautions U.S. Against Arms to Pakistan

BK1807120795 Delhi HINDUSTAN in Hindi 14 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Arms to Pakistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] India has repeatedly impressed upon the United States that the latter's supply of high technology weapons to Pakistan in excess of what is warranted by Pakistan's defense needs not only has an adverse impact on Indian security but also endangers peace in the South Asian region. The United States never heeds with any seriousness the plea that because of India's long coastline, long land border with China, and responsibility for its own naval security in the Indian Ocean, arming Pakistan to enhance its military power and maintain the regional balance of power is tantamount to fueling Pakistan's aggressive designs. The Clinton administration seems impervious to all these factors and maintains its benign stance toward Pakistan even when it has irrefutable evidence that Pakistan has not only made many nuclear bombs but has defiantly continued its nuclear program even after the United States imposed military and economic sanctions. Although Pakistan was unable to obtain the four squadrons of U.S. F-16 bombers, it managed to procure missiles from China capable of launching nuclear warheads many hundreds of kilometers to blast its targets conveniently.

Indeed, it is a matter of grave concern to India that after failing to get the U.S. Congress to repeal the Pressler law, which stopped arms supplies to Pakistan, the Clinton administration is now very much willing to resume the supply of the weapons that were being dispatched to Pakistan just before the sanctions were imposed. Mr. Salman Khursheed, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, met the concerned U.S. officials in Washington recently and clearly told them that India deems U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan as wrong, and that they might turn the Indian people totally against the United States. Of course we cannot prevent Pakistan from procuring or buying weapons, but we can very well warn it that by accumulating the latest weapons it will create more problems for its security rather than safeguarding it. Moreover, it is high time that Pakistan change its nuclear policy. India favors total nuclear disarmament and wants such weapons eradicated from the world. It was with this intention that India refused to sign the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty]. It deems as wrong and immoral the special concession granted to the nuclear powers through the NPT whereby only they are permitted to make nuclear weapons, test them, and keep them in their arsenals. The world cannot be protected from possible blackmail by the nuclear powers as long as they enjoy this privilege. Instead of having an independent stand on the issue, Pakistan has made its signing of the NPT conditional on India doing so first.

We have seen the result of the reckless U.S. arming of Pakistan in Pakistan's attacks on us in 1965 and 1972. Nevertheless, we can still assure Pakistan that its security and unity will remain intact provided that it extends a friendly hand toward India. In fact, Pakistan's unity is threatened only by its own repressive domestic policies. Pakistan's leaders and various governments have failed to realize this naked truth despite witnessing the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent country. We do not want to pontificate on the issue and heap on our advice, but we must impress upon Pakistan that mutual cooperation between two neighbors is the best guarantee of mutual security and lasting friendship.

It is difficult to force the United States to stop supplying arms to Pakistan. When troops from the erstwhile Soviet Union were present in Afghanistan, Pakistan was an important link in U.S. strategic planning. Now Afghanistan is a free country, although its regional and clan politics are still controlled by Pakistan. It might be true that Pakistan is inciting a civil war in Afghanistan while siding with one faction. Given this situation, it would help to maintain world peace if Pakistan is not encouraged to incite struggles in other Asian countries as it has by intervening in Afghanistan. If the United States really wishes Pakistan well, it should advise Pakistan to maintain good and friendly relations with its neighbors.

Editorial Questions Defense Ties With U.S.

BK1607062895 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Missile Mystery"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] True to his style, Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, former Army Chief of Pakistan, has sought to provide clinching evidence - something Washington is trying hard not to see - that his country has received the M-11 missiles and technology from China. Addressing academics and Clinton Administration officials in Washington, Gen. Beg revealed that it was he who had signed the missiles deal with China. Like claiming nuclear weapons capability without building an arsenal, he tried to inject a grey element that could lend itself to multiple interpretation. Gen. Beg said the M-11 missiles have not come to Pakistan because of pressure, while also acknowledging that Islamabad may have some M-11 missile components and other technology. If, as the General asserts, these missiles are below the parameters set by the Missile Technology Control Regime, it is difficult to explain their non-arrival in Pakistan in spite of the years that have elapsed since he signed the deal. US intelligence are apparently more certain of their facts than both the General and the Clinton Administration. It was on the basis of their findings that the American media recently carried stories revealing that the M-11 missiles have been stored in crates at the Sargodha air base in Pakistan. Gen. Beg's statements on the M-11 missiles may appear as incontrovertible to unbiased minds. But, not necessarily, to the Clinton Administration. After all, when Washington has not so far found it necessary to confirm or contradict its own intelligence findings, what could be its compulsions to accept a retired Pakistani General's verdict?

All of US compulsions about security in South Asia seem to begin and end with holding India on the leash. There is by now some circumstantial evidence to suggest that defence understanding between the two is not developing exactly along the lines they had hoped to foster. After India cancelled Defence Secretary Nambiar's visit to the US last month without assigning reasons, American Under Secretary [of State] for Arms Control Lynn Davis reciprocated by calling off her projected South Asian trip later this month. There is no official pronouncement on the divergence in their security perspectives. But New Delhi has noted the US stand that it does not intend to transfer defence technology to India just as yet. Almost as an amplification of that attitude has come Ms Davis' warning that it would be a US effort to deny India even conventional weapons. Contrasting the US responses to India's indigenous Agni and Prithvi to Pakistan's China-supplied M-11 missiles, a question may soon be raised whether Indo-US defence exchanges can be anything more than perfunctory. Especially, as Ms Davis has also blurted out, to qualify for any technology cooperation India will have to surrender its autonomy by accepting the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty], MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime], comprehensive test ban treaty, the new version of COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] and all other regimes of this kind that are debilitating for the developing world.

'Confidential' Report Submitted on Power Project

BK1807154295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Maharashtra, the much-awaited report of the subcommittee set up to review the controversial Dabhol power project was submitted to the chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, in Bombay today. The American power company Enron is a partner in the project. The report was submitted to Mr. Joshi by the deputy chief minister, Mr. Gopinath Munde, who headed the committee. Mr. Munde declined to disclose the contents of the report, saying this is confidential. He said the findings of the committee were unanimous.

Talking to newspersons, the chief minister said the report would be discussed in the next cabinet meeting. He said the views of the Departments of Industry, Energy, Finance, and Law would also be taken before arriving at a final decision. He said if there is a demand the report will be discussed in the state assembly, but that will be after the cabinet decision. Mr. Joshi, however, declined to give any timeframe for taking a decision in the matter and said Enron has not been asked to stop work at the project site. The chief minister also made it clear that the views of the subcommittee are not binding on the government. The subcommittee was constituted to inquire into various aspects of the deal, including power tariff; malpractices, if any; and the project's impact on the environment.

Reportage, Commentary on Kidnapped Tourists

Freed 'Militants' Urge Release

BK1807133595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jammu, India, July 18 (AFP) — Four Kashmiri Muslim militants who were freed Tuesday [18 July] after a six-year jail term called for the unconditional release of five Western tourists held hostage in Kashmir by a rebel group.

The activists, from the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), told reporters here that abductions were a blot on Islam.

"Islam does not permit innocent people being taken hostage," the JKLF's former acting chief Mohammed Rafiq said. "If the rebels (holding them) are true lovers of Kashmiris, they should free the foreigners without harming them.

"If they are not set free immediately, it would harm the freedom struggle (in the state) at the international level," said Rafiq, who along with the other three had been charged with secessionist violence.

A rebel group calling itself Al-Faran seized two American and two British trekkers in the Pahalgam area of Kashmir on July 4. A German and a Norwegian were then abducted four days later after one of the Americans escaped.

Al-Faran is demanding the release of 21 imprisoned militants. It has threatened to kill the five tourists if the demand is not met.

Other Kashmiri Muslim militant groups have condemned the kidnappings.

Rafiq also blasted Indian troops for human rights violations in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, and said jailed Muslim militants were frequently subjected to torture.

"Jailed activists of different rebel groups are given inhumane treatment in prison cells and interrogation centres," Rafiq said. "Many [word indistinct] have been killed in police custody."

More than 12,000 people have been killed in Kashmir in a violent Muslim separatist drive raging since 1989. Thousands of guerrillas and suspects are in prisons across the northern state.

Officials Use 'Contacts' for Release

BK1807161895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1608 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Srinagar, India, July 18 (AFP) — Indian authorities were using three Kashmiri contacts to secure the release of five Western tourists held by Muslim guerrillas in the troubled state, official sources said Tuesday [18 July].

A "crisis management group" of the Kashmir administration was trying to impress upon the militants the need to free the hostages despite a renewed threat by the rebels to execute them, the sources said.

"We are trying to send the message across to the militants through three local contacts," a top official said in this summer capital of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

"We are optimistic," a police officer added. [passage omitted]

Officials, Freed U.S. Hostage Comment

BK1907091295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, the five foreign tourists who were kidnapped by militants in Pahalgam area remained untraced for the 16th day today. The state government's efforts to secure a safe release are continuing. There has been so far no response from the abductors to the worldwide appeal for the unconditional release of the innocent tourists. The situation is being continuously monitored by senior officers of the state government. The local stations of radio and Doordarshan [television] are repeatedly broadcasting the government's appeal for their release.

A senior state Congress-I leader, Mr. Fayyaz Rahat, in a statement today said the abductors have deeply hurt the sentiments of the Kashmiri people by taking the foreign tourists as hostage. He said the militants should immediately release the tourists if they claim to be friends of the people of Kashmir.

The former union minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, has appealed to the Al-Faran group to release the captive tourists unconditionally. In a statement, he said their action is against the tenets of Islam and cultural and moral values of Kashmir.

Meanwhile, American John Childs, who escaped after being kidnapped by the militants in Kashmir, has revealed that his abductors were mainly from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan. He also indicated that the kidnappers were equipped with sophisticated weapons and communication system. This was disclosed by the Indian ambassador in Washington, Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, who spoke to Helen Childs, the mother of John Childs.

Radio Views 'Brainwashed' Kidnappers

BK1807110995 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Commentary by Samuel Ved]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] and a number of Islamic scholars and leaders have described kidnapping of unarmed innocent people as an un-Islamic act, but that has not moved the kidnappers of five foreign tourists from Pahalgam and 10 members of marriage party in Doda in Jammu a bit so far. These kidnappers, who call themselves Al-Faran, have been brainwashed to believe that they are in Kashmir on an Islamic mission.

Those who are aware of the bitter frustration caused to Pakistan and its agents in Kashmir by the result of the burning of the Charar Sharif shrine in May this year were fearing a more desperate attempt to foil Government of India's efforts to restore normalcy and peace in Kashmir through elections. Their fears proved correct. Pakistan had hoped that the destruction of the shrine would ignite widespread violent anti-India passions in Kashmir and create conditions that would make elections impossible. The destruction of the shrine no doubt caused a delay in the election program, but it convinced the people of Kashmir that Pakistan was systematically destroying symbols of Kashmir character with the help of non-Kashmiri militants. Harkatul Answr, which was mainly responsible for the destruction of Charar Sharif, consists of Afghans and other non- Kashmiris. Pakistan apparently could not hire Kashmiris to destroy their own cultural heritage. The destruction of the shrine provoked anti-Pakistan sentiments in Kashmir.

The new wave of kidnappings can be seen against the background of three important developments.

First, as mentioned earlier, the Charar Sharif episode produced results contrary to the expectations of Pakistan and its agents in Kashmir by turning more people in favor of elections.

Secondly, United States Ambassador Frank Wisner's visit, during which he met varied sections of the Kashmiri people, and his subsequent statements that his country favors elections and that the people of Kashmir were tired of violence, went a long way in molding the world public opinion in favor of restoration of peace through free and fair elections. In other words, it meant rejection of the Pakistani argument that elections are no substitute for plebiscite. Mr. Wisner's pro-election statements were criticized by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, which virtually works as a promoter of Pakistani objectives in Kashmir.

Thirdly, the Government of India accelerated its efforts to revive the economic life which had been destroyed by pro-Pakistan militants in the state. The various visits of officials from New Delhi to Kashmir convinced the government that the common man was yearning for peace and the respectable means of his daily bread. It was also learnt that many Kashmiris were upset when the government decided to delay elections after the Charar Sharif incident.

The kidnappers have demanded release of 22 militants who according to them are in jail, and have so far given two deadlines for the fulfillment of the demand or they would kill the hostages. But the question is if the kidnapping of foreign tourists — who include two Americans and two British — the real reason for getting the release of 22 militants. Perhaps this demand is just to cover up for the kidnappings. The real motive may be to blackmail the United States and other Western countries into changing their pro- election stance.

In the past five years, Pakistan has staked it all — its economy, its political stability, its domestic peace, and its external image — to wrest Kashmir. Every successive government in Pakistan in the past years have kept the people in the false hope that Kahsmir would soon come to Pakistan. But now the people of Pakistan feel their country is isolated in the world on the question of Kashmir. Those who kidnapped the tourists may not be Kashmiris. They may be militants belonging to either Pakistan-based Harkatul Ansar or Taleban who are a product of Pakistani madrasas [religious schools]. They have been brainwashed to believe that they are in engaged in an Islamic mission in Kashmir, but the OIC says kidnapping is an un-Islamic act.

Daily Discounts OIC Condemnation

BK1907100195 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial: "OIC's token gesture"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Better late than never is for one who has settled for a consolation award. The abductions in Kashmir in recent weeks are too abominable to permit qualified reaction. The condemnation of these abductions by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) as un-Islamic appears to be an exercise which is less spontaneous than calculated and, being so, carries limited moral sanction. The OIC has not lost a single opportunity to denounce India for what it has perceived as persecution of Muslims — in Kashmir and elsewhere in the country. Half a decade ago, the daughter of India's Union Home Minister, a Muslim, was abducted by Kashmir militants. But nobody can recall that the OIC had lost its sleep over the incident, or over the abduction of several other individuals, many of them Hindus. Why was that so? Because Mufti Mohammed is a "rented Muslim", a phrase Pakistan uses for patriotic Indian citizens adhering to the Islamic faith? In the present cases of abduction, not only some foreign nationals (American, British and German) are victims, there are also some Hindu Indians. By OIC reckoning, all of them can be labelled as infidels and, therefore, not deserving the consideration to which the faithful are entitled. And yet, the OIC has felt called upon to invoke the Koran to criticise an action by the faithful against non-believers. There seems to be more than what meets the eye.

This organisation of Islamic governments cannot afford to adhere to the pristine principles of Islam in situations where they do not square with the OIC's interests in the West. As it happens, many of the important OIC members, such as Egypt are friends of the West and are at the receiving end of the Islamists' zeal against tourists from the West. The violence against European tourists has substantially affected Egypt's lucrative tourism business, apart from bringing a bad name to the country. The disturbed OIC conscience over the Kashmir abductions is explained by the fact that Islamic countries collectively do not wish to earn a bad name in the West. Were any harm to be caused to the hostages in Kashmir, the retribution is likely to be severe, not in India alone but in the West. If the OIC wields any influence with the Kashmir separatists and the mercenaries there from other countries — there is no reason to suppose it does not have — it should not stop by quoting the Koran. As an organisation representing civilised governments, it has an obligation to caution Muslims anywhere and pursuing any cause not to cross the threshold of civilised human conduct.

Daily Urges 'Pressure' on Kidnappers

BK1907092195 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Jul 95 p 12

[Editorial: "Desperate Kidnappers"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The hope being held out for the five foreign tourists kidnapped in Jammu and Kashmir [J&K] with the breakthrough by the government and western diplomats in establishing contact with the kidnappers of the Al-Faran outfit, does not mitigate the loss caused by the dastardly murder of two other Indian hostages kidnapped by militants in Doda district and the disappearance of an entire marriage party. Negotiations between the government and the Al-Faran militants will hopefully lead to the further prolongation of the already extended deadline. Kidnapping innocent citizens is an act of deplorable cowardice. Perhaps the desperation is a reflection of intense competition between the various militant outfits — the Al-Faran, Harkatul Ansar, Hizbul Mujahidin and a few others — to outshine each other. It is the logic of such a perverse competition that led the relatively unknown Al-Faran, to attract international attention through kidnapping of foreigners. The compulsions behind such a competition are three. First the militant outfits relying on a strategy of terror are getting gradually alienated from the ordinary people. These war- hardened foreign insurgents, supported by Pakistan, have lost the backing of the Kashmiri people and are therefore, no more the proverbial 'fish in the water'. Second, the various political initiatives which includes a visit to Srinagar by the United States ambassador Mr Frank Wisner and the other ambassadors of the European Union are extremely threatening for the militant desperadoes.

Signs of such anger were displayed in the vituperative remarks of Dukhtaran-i-Millat, a separatist women's organisation, which described Mr Wisner's visit as a "conspiracy against the Islamic movement in Kashmir." Third, along with the sluggish tourist trade quietly picking up with adventurous foreign tourists and pilgrims ready to probe the beauties of Kashmir, the boom in the carpet- weaving and the horticulture industries has brought Kashmir's economy back onto the rails. With international opinion repelled by the cowardliness of the militants and favourable towards a democratic solution, the Central government should go for a two- pronged strategy: keep up the pressure on the kidnappers even while ensuring utmost safety of the kidnapped; and begin an unconditional political dialogue with the various political groups representing J&K including the various leaders of the Hurriyat. In this regard the plea of the Hurriyat leaders and the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) for releasing the kidnapped foreigners is a welcome sign. While an open criticism of the terrorist line by the moderates among the Hurriyat leadership might endanger their lives, it is high time that such attempts were made by the political leaders in Kashmir. Once the line of terror is marginalised, a political dialogue between the government and the political leaders in J&K will pave the way for free and fair elections in the valley and go a long way in delivering Kashmiris from the long protracted state of siege.

Iran

Commentary Examines Recent Rafsanjani Interview

NC1807095395 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jul 95 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Which Door Is Open?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The English-language newspapers IRAN NEWS and TEHRAN TIMES in their Tuesday 4 July issues both carried comments on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's interview with the Cable News Network, portraying it as an effort by the president to open the door for relations with the United States. Both advise the United States to seize the opportunity and give a positive answer to this call as soon as possible!

IRAN NEWS wrote: "Yes, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is sincere in his goodwill toward the United States. Iranian-U.S. partnership next to other countries that are sincere about humanity can give the best results. Times have changed and the world is becoming a small family. The Iranian and U.S. nations have many issues in common and mutual cooperation can reflect on others. President Hashemi- Rafsanjani's message that the door is open is a sincere message. We repeat: The door is open."

The TEHRAN TIMES wrote: "Speaking from a position of strength, he (President Hashemi-Rafsanjani) has said that Iran's doors are open to the United States. The Americans should not miss this opportunity."

The similarity of these two commentaries shows that both newspapers have been fed by a suspicious process that is extremely interested in rapprochement with the United States. But apparently these two newspapers have unfortunately forgotten that the Islamic Republic's policy on relations with the United States, which was stated by the leader of the revolution, is to negate any talks and relations with the United States. On 12 Aban 1373 [3 November 1994] he stated: "We have nothing to discuss with the United States."

In the president's recent interview too, there was not one indication that this policy has changed; these two newspapers exploited the interview. Alleging that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has opened the door to the United States and insisting that he is sincere in this call is nothing but an insult against him. Alleging that "the Iranian and U.S. nations have much in common" is an insult to the Iranian nation. More important is that equating the United States with countries that are truly sincere is tantamount to forgetting all the crimes the United States has perpetrated and that this was why His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, described it as "the source of corruption of the century" and "the great satan." Is it not treason against the Iranian nation and against every nation to place the criminal U.S. next to all the other nations that are sincere in their humanitarian aspirations? About which humanitarian aspiration has the United States been sincere?

What objectives are our colleagues at the IRAN NEWS and TEHRAN TIMES pursuing by addressing the United States so beseechingly? Is it not an insult to a respectable, revolutionary, and firm nation like the Iranian nation for its press to stand so despicably in front of the United States, which is the filthiest and most detested government in the world? Do the officials of these newspapers think that since their newspapers are published in English, the nation will not know if they contradict the nation's views and the policy of the system and the leader?! Our brave and revolutionary people, who have suffered many wounds by the United States' hand, are now asking: Which door is open to the United States?

Unfortunately IRAN NEWS has gone one step further and tried to pave the way for relations with the Zionist regime as the next phase. This point and other points calling for examination will be discussed. Meanwhile, we advise our colleagues at the TEHRAN TIMES and IRAN NEWS to study the revolution leader's remarks on the United States on 3 November 1994 and assure them that the process that favors compromise with the United States will gain nothing and that it is better for them not to become the mouthpiece for this intimidated process. What the revolution leader said then was:

"As long as the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is moving in the right direction and as long as our Koranic, divine, and Islamic aspirations and objectives rule this system, this hatred toward and this confrontation against the leaders of world arrogance led by the United States will continue with strength."

Radio Views Lebanese Prime Minister's Syrian Visit

NC1707061395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri ended his one-day visit to Damascus yesterday. During this visit al-Hariri met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and discussed regional events, developments in the Middle East peace process, and bilateral relations.

Al-Hariri's visit to Damascus came two days after a visit to the region by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the peace process. Ross' visit was aimed at activating the military talks between Syria and the Zionist regime, talks that ultimately failed.

Political analysts believe the special relations between Syria and Lebanon constitute one of the most significant pillars for safeguarding Lebanon's independence against the Zionist regime's intentions. The Zionist regime has always pursued expansionist policies on Lebanon; in 1978 it occupied part of south Lebanon and in 1982 it extended this occupation. This policy is also reflected in the compromise process. Through the mechanism of bilateral talks with the Arab governments during the compromise process, the Zionist regime is trying to make Lebanon the scapegoat in any agreement with Syria. But since Syrian-Lebanese relations are on a special level, all these efforts have failed; Damascus has always stated that withdrawal from south Lebanon complements withdrawal from the Golan Heights and is the condition for any type of compromise with the Zionist regime.

Syrian-Lebanese political cooperation on a higher level has also decreased Zionist interference in Lebanon's domestic affairs. Damascus' support for Beirut has—to an extent—paved the way for the repression of Lebanese political groups used as tools in the hands of the Zionists during the Lebanese civil war and has ended the indirect presence of Tel Aviv's influence in Lebanon.

Continued Commentary, Reaction to Serb Aggression

Official Views 'Genocide'

LD1707164695 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA — Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi here Monday [17 July] termed the ongoing genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the world's most dreadful catastrophe which had no precedent.

Ayatollah Yazdi stressed that if the international community failed to put an end to such a disaster its ominous impacts would also affect other countries of the world.

Speaking at a meeting of judiciary officials from throughout the country, Ayatollah Yazdi stressed that world's humanitarian thoughts were doubtful about the goodwill of the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Today, he added, the idea that the United Nations was committing treason against nations was taking shape in the public opinion of the world. Therefore, he stressed, speaking of international peace and calm would only remain a fiction if flames of war were not put out in that part of the world.

Daily: Muslims Ready To Stop Massacre

LD1607201995 Tehran IRNA in English
1958 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — If no one in the West volunteers to defend Bosnian Muslims, there are millions of Muslims throughout the Islamic world who are ready to stop savage massacre at the heart of Europe, said the morning daily JOMHURI ESLAMI here Sunday [16 July].

Referring to the ongoing tragic situation in Bosnia where the Serbian criminals are slaughtering the helpless people even in the safe havens, the daily wrote in a commentary that the U.N. and Security Council were directly responsible for such crimes.

Because they, on the one hand, have disarmed defenders of the safe havens, and on the other hand, when it was the time to defend the safe areas, they left the forces alone.

There were some "confirmed reports" saying that the U.N. forces withdrew from Srebrenica by order of their commanders before the Serbs entered the city, argued the paper adding however, the West has concealed the measure of the U.N. in its propaganda by justifying that the U.N. soldiers were frightened and have individually escaped from the area before the Serbs' aggression on the safe havens.

An essential point to be considered is the fact that the U.N. has always encouraged the Serbs to spread their aggression by openly declaring that its forces were not even able to defend the safe areas, this is an open green light to the Serbs to attack other safe areas," argued the paper.

We should not waste time, stressed the paper, adding that the Islamic world is more responsible than all other people in the face of this great human tragedy. The Islamic world should pave the way to stop the carnage in the Balkans.

Suggesting that ending such human tragedy should be put on the agenda of the Islamic world, the paper criticized the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for falling behind the trend of events and for its passive reactions.

However, it called on the OIC to hold an emergency meeting on Bosnian crisis and adopt a firm decision.

Now that the Security Council and the U.N. were acting deceitfully and left the Bosnian Muslims alone before the Serbs, the world of Islam should strongly take measures to lift the Bosnian arms embargo and immediately dispatch its forces as a sign to support and defend the helpless Muslims of Bosnia.

Nation Sends Humanitarian Aid

LD1807110295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the deterioration of the situation in Bosnia, especially in the Srebrenica and Zepa region, humanitarian assistance from the Islamic Republic of Iran has been put at the disposal of that country's suffering people. Let me draw your attention to the remarks made in this connection by Mr. Vahid Dastjerdi, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society:

[Begin Dastjerdi recording] We have sent a team and they have been in the actual region of Srebrenica and its environs for the past two days, where the refugees are seeking shelter; and, with the cooperation and coordination of our embassy in Bosnia, approximately 3,000 parcels of foodstuffs and a number of blankets are being distributed among the needy and the victims.

Alongside this, we have, fortunately, repaired a medical center which was damaged by shelling, and so on, and it will, God willing, be reopened on Thursday [19 July] and be put at the service of the wounded and disabled.

We must take this opportunity to plead with all Muslim Red Crescent Societies to act as rapidly as possible, because the urgency is greater than can be imagined, to rush to the assistance of these victims and the wounded. I hope that, God willing, we will see a positive response from all the national Red Crescent Societies. At the same time, we also call on the international Red Crescent federation to condemn these atrocities and to seek the necessary assistance from national societies throughout the world for these victims. [end recording]

Officials View Anniversary of UN Resolution 598

Adviser Comments on Implementation

LD1807112495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eight anniversary of the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, Mr. Ali Khoram, the senior adviser of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the official in charge of following up Resolution 598, granted an exclusive interview to our correspondent. He spoke about the steps undertaken to implement Resolution 598, saying: The major parts of the paragraphs of Resolution 598 have been implemented. Concerning the exchange of POW's, too, we have reached some agreements which will be finalized in the future visit of our country's foreign minister to Iraq. He added: Problems concerning Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution have also been overcome.

The senior adviser spoke about the implementation of Paragraphs 6 and 7 of Resolution 598, which concern determining the aggressor in the war and setting the level of war reparations, saying: The United Nations secretary general has made an announcement concerning Paragraph 6. Talks are on the agenda concerning the levels of war damage.

On implementing Paragraph 8, which concerns the provision of security for the Persian Gulf region by the countries of the region, Mr. Khoram said: Iran and Iraq both stress the implementation of this paragraph. We hope that through cooperation with other countries of the region, security is established in the region so that there is no excuse for the presence of aliens.

Speaker Views 'Hardships' Faced

LD1907123095 Tehran IRNA in English
1201 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri says the "economic hardships" the country faced in the last months of the Iraqi imposed war was the main reason the late imam accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which ended eight years of a bloody hostility between the two neighboring countries.

"After the imam was informed by the military commanders of the army's logistics situation and on the other hand there was not enough money to buy arms, and also our troops had to withdraw from al-Faw, Mehran and some other regions, he accepted the resolution which was equal to drinking poison for his reverence," the speaker said at a question-answer session with the clerics of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province while he was there for a 4-day visit. He returned to Tehran on Tuesday [18 July].

July 18 marked the anniversary of Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council resolution by Iran in 1988.

Underlining the importance of confronting West's cultural assault, the speaker said the issue is serious and the enemy has opened new fronts against Islamic Iran through its cultural invasions.

Nateq-Nuri warned that the enemies of the Islamic revolution are trying to make Iran's young generation especially the students and clerics indifferent towards the revolution and the fate of the country.

The country's history indicates that the people's indifference was the main factor contributing to the failure of the country's past movements and uprisings, he said.

Referring to sporadic whispers by certain Iranian dailies proposing the idea of separation of religion from politics, the speaker stressed that "the wise enemies are disseminating their ideas through our ignorant friends."

If the founder of the Islamic revolution the late Imam Khomeyni held such a view (separation of religion from politics), the Islamic revolution would have never materialized, he added.

Asked to comment on the presence of the ulema in the upcoming Majles, Nateq-Nuri said the Majles is in need of specialists in various fields including clerics experts in Islamic issues.

In response to another question, he denied his visit to the province had propaganda aims ahead of the next presidential elections. The speaker is the main contender in the elections to be held next year.

He said the visit was a "routine" one similar to others he launched to different provinces across the country at the invitation of provincial Friday prayer leaders.

Nateq-Nuri said it was early to talk of the presidential elections because before that "we have the fifth Majles elections ahead of us" which he termed as decisive. Composition of the next Majles, he added, could determine the fate of the presidential elections as well.

Asked if factions could participate in the upcoming Majles elections, Nateq-Nuri said according to the Constitution there is no restriction for running in the elections.

He further touched on the country's economic conditions and noted that considerable achievements had been attained in the first five- year development plan.

Velayati Delays Baghdad Visit Due to 'Obstacles'

LD1807100495 Tehran IRNA in English
0932 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Secretary of Iran's National Supreme Security Council Hasan Ruhani said that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has been invited by his Iraqi counterpart to visit Baghdad. But, he added, unless Iraqi officials show seriousness towards removing the existing obstacles, no date could be set for such a visit.

Speaking to the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES on the anniversary of the acceptance by Iran of the UN Resolution 598, Ruhani stressed that most of the articles of the resolution have not been implimented yet.

He went on saying that the articles dealing with war reparations, reconstruction of war-stricken areas, repatriation of prisoners of war (POWs), and some other issues are stil not resolved.

He added that there are strong evidence substantiating that Iraqis are still holding some 5,000 Iranian POWs.

"Finally they agreed to give a reasonable explanation within the next six months regarding the fate of our beloved ones held in their country," Ruhani stated.

He reminded that the statement by Javier Perez de Cuellar, recognizing Iraq to be the aggressor, paved the way for implementation of Article 6 of the resolution.

The paper quoted Ruhani as saying that current talks between Iran and Iraq are held within the framework of the 1975 treaty and UN Resolution 598.

Envoy Reports Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations to UN

LD1807084595 Tehran IRNA in English
0720 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, July 18, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Monday [17 July] reported 19 instances of Iraqi cease-fire violations between March 18-31 this year.

Kamal Kharrazi, in a letter to the U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, listed cases of violations as flying over buffer zones, shooting towards Iranian territory and border posts, traffic in buffer zones, construction of personal and group trenches and instalment of barbed wires and anti-aircraft equipment.

Taking films from Iran's positions and fortifications in southern Mehran region and patrolling in Arvandrud waters were other cases of cease-fire violation.

The letter was circulated as a Security Council document on Monday.

Some 11 Iraqi helicopters and a plane on a reconnaissance mission were observed flying over Khaneqin, Khosravi and Halalah buffer zones, the letter added.

Patrolling of 63 Iraqi boats with 148 crew and passengers in Arvandrud waters was also among instances of cease-fire violation reported to the U.N. chief.

Radio Reports on Mediation Efforts for Iraqi Kurds

LD1707205395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1930 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry has said that efforts undertaken by Tehran to resolve the dispute between the Iraqi Kurdish groups is a measure aimed at safeguarding the territorial integrity of Iraq. Mr. Mahmud Mohammadi stated that, at a time when Iraq is incapable of exercising its sovereignty along its northern borders, it would be better if, instead of foreign forces, a group of Iraqi people were to run the region through solidarity among themselves. He stressed: We are striving to settle the differences to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity. As we have repeatedly announced, the Islamic Republic of Iran is strongly against the partition of Iraq and supports that country's territorial integrity.

He declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the sake of its interests and national security, cannot remain indifferent to the provocations near its borders. He said: It is regrettable to hear that a spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has interpreted the Islamic Republic of Iran's goodwill measures, which were undertaken for the sake of realizing collective peace, security, and tranquillity in the region, as a conspiracy against Baghdad.

He announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold talks with Iraq on the Kurdish issue.

Efforts To Continue in Iraqi Kurdistan

LD1807090395 Tehran IRNA in English
0644 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Iraq on Sunday [16 July] claimed that an Iranian delegation had met with the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in northern Iraq late last week.

The American news agency (AP) Sunday quoted an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that Iraq condemned the meeting as a blatant breach of its sovreignty and intervention in its internal affairs.

In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, the Americans backed by the United Nations granted semi-autonomy authority to the Kurdish provinces of Iraq in a bid to protect Kurds.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in the course of the Persian Gulf conflict and even after that, has always underlined the need to preserve the territorial integrity of Iraq and has voiced its opposition to any acts that may violate the integrity of that country.

To this end, upon an Iranian initiative, several meetings among Tehran, Damascus and Ankara have so far been held in the three countries.

All statements issued at the end of the tripartite meetings reiterated the necessity of preserving Iraq's territorial integrity.

The Turkish Army has several times infiltrated the Iraqi Kurdistan under pretext of suppressing rebel forces, rendering the innocent people of the region homeless.

Iraqi Kurds are still the main victims of bloody clashes raging between PUK forces and its rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) over the past few months.

Insisting on Iraq's territorial integrity, the Islamic Republic of Iran has once and again suggested mediating between the warring Kurdish groups which proposal has been welcomed by Kurdish leaders.

High-ranking delegations from PUK and KDO met in Tehran some two weeks ago where they agreed to extend a cease-fire in place between them for another month.

Unhappy with Iran's peace efforts, American leaders sent a top level delegation comprising agents of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to Iraqi Kurdistan to prevent the success of Iranian brokered talks between the rival Turkish groups.

Clashes between the rival Kurdish factions intensified simultaneous with the arrival of the U.S. delegation in northern Iraq.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it will continue its peace efforts to restore peace and tranquility to Iraqi Kurdistan.

Tehran has also announced its opposition to other countries' intervention in Iraq's internal affairs, underlining that the Iraqi people should solve their problems themselves.

Majles Speaker: Tehran Considering Joining GATT

LD1707162595 Tehran IRNA in English
1242 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shahrkord, Chaharmahal Bakhtiari Prov., July 17, IRNA — Iran is now studying whether to join the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), Majles speaker, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri has said here.

Speaking at a press conference here on Sunday [16 July], he said that the government's decision to join the treaty was pending comprehensive and complete studies of experts from economic and political points of view.

On a plan to amend the elections law, the speaker said the plan has been set forth after consultations with the Majles' Research Center with an aim removing flaws in the elections law.

The Guardians Council's previous interpretation of the Constitution concerning its supervision over elections, removal of problems facing election committees and the educational backgrounds of candidates are included in the plan, he said.

The plan has been inked by Majles deputies and sent to the Council of Guardians, the speaker said.

Elsewhere in his speech, Nateq-Nuri condemned international circles for their silence on the crimes being committed by the Serbs in Bosnia.

The presence of the U.N. and NATO forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a cover up for their inability and a move aimed at making world people indifferent to the massacre of Muslims, he said.

Russian Official Meets With Oil Minister in Tehran

LD1707181095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation have announced their readiness to cooperate in the fields of exploration and drilling of oil wells and to set up joint companies to conduct their oil-related international activities.

Ways of achieving this cooperation were discussed at a meeting in Tehran this afternoon between Anatoliy Fomin, Russian first deputy minister for fuel and power engineering, and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh. At the meeting, Mr. Aqazadeh pointed to the two countries' capabilities in oil-related affairs and emphasized that our country is prepared to expand cooperation over oil in the Caspian Sea, within the framework of the establishment of joint companies for underwater drilling, construction of platforms, and joint activities in the republics of Central Asia.

Rafsanjani Praises Law Enforcement Officers

LD1707213595 Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA — President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday [17 July] decorated 18 graduating students of the second session of the command and staff military academy, and another 72 graduates of the first session of the underghraduate level of police academy today.

President Rafsanjani appreciated the role of law enforcement officers for safeguarding national peace and security and observed that the nation was fully aware of the value of their services. He said every government throughout the world, and even certain hostile nations, admitted that the law enforcement officers in Iran were successful in their struggle against drug trafficking.

Prevention, Expansion of Nuclear Arms Viewed

95LA0249B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] The Conference to Review and Extend the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has begun its work at UN headquarters.

At this conference, which is the fourth of its kind, a decision will be made on extending the convention indefinitely, which is what the Western governments want.

At this conference, which will continue until 29 Ordibehesht [19 May], or about a month, various issues pertaining to the provisions of this convention, on which most of the disagreements are between the nuclear nations and the non-nuclear nations, meaning the superpowers and the non-aligned nations, will be discussed and studied, and ultimately steps will be taken to extend the convention.

General discussion at the conference will go on during the first week. Of the NPT's 177 member nations, 116 have registered to speak and explain their points of view.

The speakers for the conference's general session include 14 presidents of republics or presidents of governments, two vice presidents of republics, three deputy prime ministers, and 48 ministers and foreign ministers.

The NPT was written in 1969 and put into effect for 25 years in the year 1970.

Section 2 Paragraph 10 of this treaty states that 25 years after this treaty is put into effect, a conference will be formed to extend it, attended by all who have signed it. The NPT is considered the cornerstone for nuclear disarmament talks and the major mechanism for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world, but its relative efficiency in the last 25 years has generated disagreement among its members on how it should be continued in the future.

The United States and four other nuclear powers want to extend this treaty indefinitely, while the non-aligned member nations are critical of the reluctance on the part of the superpowers to completely eliminate nuclear weapons within a specific period of time. They want to write binding measures for the implementation of this treaty, especially Paragraphs 5 and 6.

Paragraph 5 of the NPT officially recognizes the indisputable and uniform right of all member nations to make peaceful use of nuclear energy, and it requires the nuclear powers to help these countries make appropriate use of nuclear energy.

Paragraph 6 requires the nuclear powers to stop the nuclear arms race and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through bilateral or multilateral negotiations. They must do this as quickly as possible and with complete good will.

The provisions appended to the NPT include the required guarantee to refrain from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear nations who are members of the treaty, and so far it has gone unanswered.

Last week, as this conference was about to convene, the Security Council approved a resolution which apparently requires the nuclear powers to come to the aid of any non-nuclear member nation if it is the target of a nuclear attack.

The question of the extent of the effectiveness of technical, medical, and humanitarian aid after a nuclear attack is one thing, but the non-aligned nations who are members of this treaty, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, have called for the inclusion of this into one of the paragraphs of the NPT and also into the Security Council resolution.

Venezuela, Mexico, Nigeria, Indonesia, and the Islamic Republic of Iran are the standard bearers for the non-aligned nations in their negotiations with the superpowers on reviewing and extending the NPT.

Differences of opinion between the nuclear and non-nuclear nations have so far delayed extension. The current conference, whose final sessions are for the purpose of extending this treaty, is especially important for expressing and explaining the rightful positions and views of the non-aligned nations on the NPT.

As this conference was about to begin, the United States and England announced that they have the required 51 percent vote to extend the treaty indefinitely, although revising and amending some of its provisions will need further consultation and exchanges of views.

Pasi Patukalio [as transliterated], the Finnish chairman of this treaty's Preliminary Committee, predicted on Monday at a press conference that the NPT would vote unanimously to extend indefinitely.

The first three weeks of the current conference are for reviewing the treaty. This will be done in three committees, and the results of their work will be given final approval in the conference in three weeks.

The fourth week of this conference is for extending the NPT, and experts on disarmament expect easy passage for indefinite extension of the treaty if the demands of the nonaligned nations are met or if there is a compromise.

The Americans are trying to portray the permanent extension of this treaty as something obvious. For this reason they are trying to move minds toward the extension of this treaty rather than its revision and a study of the performance of the nuclear powers during the past 25 years.

One provision the United States is emphasizing is reinforcing this treaty's supervisory mechanism to prevent the transfer of nuclear weapons technology or the reconstitution of nuclear power plant fuel for the purpose of obtaining the materials needed to build nuclear weapons.

According to Jayanta Dhanapala, Sri Lanka's ambassador to Washington and the chairman of the Conference to review and extend the NPT, this treaty, despite its deficiencies, has played an effective role in the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons among the non-aligned member nations, but in general it has not been that effective in preventing the expansion of the superpower arsenals.

Some experts worry that the U.S. unilateral insistence on extending this treaty without superpower flexibility and additional commitment to guarding and implementing this treaty's provisions may ultimately lead to the withdrawal and gradual departure of some of the treaty's non-aligned member nations.

Last week at a press conference George Bunn, deputy chief of the U.S. delegation to this conference, rejected this possibility and added: Indonesia and Nigeria, who are leaders of the non-aligned nations in the negotiations, despite certain considerations and weaknesses that you see in this conference, have agreed in principle to the treaty's limited extension.

Nugroho Wisnu Murti, Indonesia's permanent UN delegate, gave a press conference on Monday in which he said his government will not agree to indefinite extension of the treaty without a basic revision of its provisions and adherence to their commitments by the nuclear powers. He added: If the nuclear powers insist on this (the treaty's indefinite extension by unanimous consent of the members without a vote), this will lead to the treaty's dissolution.

The Americans are also trying to ignore their commitments and to delay the complete elimination of nuclear arms.

Thomas Graham, the head of the U.S. delegation to the conference, regarded the setting of a specific date for the complete elimination of nuclear arms by the five nuclear powers as unrealistic, and he claimed that the cessation of the nuclear arms race among the superpowers is an indication of world stability and improved security.

Another legitimate demand by the non-aligned nations is a complete cessation of nuclear weapons testing, which has so far been ignored by the nuclear powers.

The Americans, reasoning that the testing of nuclear warheads necessitates nuclear explosions, presented an initiative last month to the effect that the nuclear powers should be required to prohibit nuclear testing for a 10-year period.

Based on this proposal, the right of the nuclear powers to abandon this commitment (to the complete prohibition on nuclear testing) will be recognized after 10 years.

This proposal met with sharp opposition from the non-aligned nations and the United States was forced to back down from it.

The question of what mechanism the superpowers will submit to in a full prohibition on nuclear testing and its language in the framework of the treaty (NPT) depends on the outcome of the current conference.

The nations with potential and possibly current nuclear capabilities such as the Zionist regime, India, and Pakistan are another problem for the NPT.

For security reasons, these countries have refused to join the NPT.

This has intensified the nuclear arms race in the Middle East on the one hand, and on the other has made the non-nuclear nations who are members of the treaty worry about their future security.

Initially the Arab nations made their participation in the extension of the NPT contingent upon the Zionist regime's joining the treaty and opening the doors at this country's nuclear research centers to International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors.

In a shrewd tactic, however, the Americans brought Egypt and Israel together, driving a wedge between the Arab nations.

Washington, while claiming to want to internationalize the NPT, has referred any kind of planning on Israel's atomic weapons to talks between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

Finally, under pressure from the Americans, the Arab League member nations issued a statement in which they agreed in principle, despite expressing anxiety over Israel's nuclear arsenal and the danger this poses to peace and security in the region, to extending the NPT.

According to a non-aligned UN diplomat, the treaty's greatest weakness is the lack of commitment by all nations of the world to adhere to it and the ability of any member of the treaty to withdraw from it within three months after announcing its intentions to do so officially.

The discriminatory way in which the superpowers treat the non-aligned members of this treaty is itself another of the treaty's weaknesses, and so far this has been much protested by the non-aligned nations.

A prominent example of this discrimination is the U.S. opposition to Iran having access of any kind to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The Americans oppose the construction of nuclear power plants in Iran, yet they themselves are thought to be the founders of Israel's atomic weapons industries.

Independent experts estimate that Israel has 60 to 200 nuclear warheads in its arsenals. Any kind of an accident in Israel's atomic energy research centers could bring disaster to the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia's nuclear weapons program is something else toward which the United States turns a blind eye.

Based on disclosures by a Saudi nuclear expert who recently took asylum in the West, since 1985 the Saudi Government has pursued a secret nuclear weapons program in the east of Saudi Arabia.

This issue was raised two weeks ago at a press conference held jointly in Washington by the presidents of the United States and Egypt. An Arab correspondent sought Clinton's view on the secret Saudi nuclear research program.

Despite the U.S. President's statement that he knew nothing about this issue, nuclear experts believe that the Saudi Government, following Iraq's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons in the 1980s, went into action and is secretly trying to obtain nuclear weapons technology.

The question of the extent to which the NPT will succeed in achieving its goals will be answered in the future, but according to a non-aligned UN diplomat, the NPT is a sword whose blade always cuts the nations of the Third World.

He said: The superpowers always use this treaty to deprive the Third World nations of the use of nuclear technology and resources for the benefit of their peoples and to entrench their supremacy at the expense of the rights of others.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore emphasized that the extension of the NPT must not be linked to a revision of the treaty. He called for a maximum vote to extend the treaty indefinitely and unconditionally.

Speaking at a session of the Conference to Revise and Extend the NPT, he said that the reasoning of some of the non-aligned nations for limited extension of the treaty with the goal of persuading the nuclear powers to fulfill their commitments and to completely disarm themselves of weapons of this type would be a way of taking the treaty hostage.

He added: This treaty is so important that any limited extension of it will damage disarmament negotiations and the commitment of members to its provisions.

He said that the elimination of nuclear weapons is the U.S.'s ultimate goal and claimed that Washington is pursuing this goal seriously in its negotiations with other nuclear superpowers.

Al Gore claimed that this treaty does not provide any special right for a group of countries to permanently retain nuclear weapons, and it asks the nuclear powers to work earnestly and with good will for the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons.

He regarded the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons from the arsenals of the two superpowers, the United States and Russia, as the most important step toward full nuclear disarmament. He added: So far 9,000 nuclear warheads in the U.S. and Russian arsenals have been destroyed.

He said the final approval of the START II treaty by the parliaments of the two nations in the future is a step toward the destruction of 5,000 more U.S. and Russian nuclear warheads. He added: The implementation of this treaty will reduce the nuclear arsenals of the two superpowers by up to two-thirds.

He cited the order by the U.S. President to take 200 more tons of nuclear materials out of the U.S. nuclear weapons chain as another step toward the elimination of these kinds of weapons from the current balance.

The U.S. vice president declared his government's support for the preparation of a pact fully prohibiting nuclear testing, and he called upon the other nuclear powers to join the United States in the compilation and approval of this pact.

He discussed the concerns of the non-nuclear nations about the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against them. He said: The nuclear powers have understood that nuclear threats against non-nuclear nations are not in their own security and strategic interests.

Unlike the English foreign minister, in his speech he did not mention Iran or Washington's groundless claim that Iran is trying to obtain nuclear weapons.

Ports Register 39% Increase in Cargo Handling

95LA0293B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 15 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 14 (IRNA) — **Iranian ports handled 3,569,000 tons of non-oil cargo during March 21-May 21, including over one million tons of exports.**

According to the Public Relations Department at the ports and shipping organizations, the figure showed a 39% (745,000 tons) rise compared to the corresponding period last year. Imports, however, indicated a 15% decline.

The busiest port over the two-month period was Bandar Abbas which received 160 ships while Bandar Anzali on the Caspian and Bandar Imam Khomeini on the Persian Gulf were the other two most active Iranian ports providing berthing facilities for 87 and 77 ships respectively.

In addition 156,852 tons of goods entered Iranian ports on the Persian Gulf through 2,894 motor launches while 131,396 tons were exported by way of 2,988 such crafts. The exports included fresh and dried fruits, dates, home appliances, spare parts, construction materials and plastic utensils.

The port authorities also added that an additional 1.359 million of oil derivatives were handled by Iranian ports during the said period which meant a 30% rise.

Fourth Pharmaceutical, Medical Fair Held

95LA0293A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 95 p 3

[Article by A. Rezvani Moghaddam: "Fourth International Medical, Pharmaceutical and Hospital Equipment Fair Opens"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — The Fourth International Medical, Pharmaceutical and Hospital Equipment Fair opened Thursday at Tehran's Permanent International Exhibition Grounds.

Some 400 domestic and foreign institutes and firms, including those from Germany, France, Belgium, Great Britain, Greece, Sweden, Italy, Austria, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Canada, China and Japan, are in participation.

At the opening ceremony, Deputy Minister of Iran's Chamber of Commerce and Head of the Export Promotion Center, Ali Saeedlu, pointed to the importance attached to health and medical science in this country and the importance of holding fairs to provide a suitable venue for Iranian and foreign experts to meet and exchange their knowledge and expertise.

He said Iran exported over $12,000,000 of medicines and medical equipment during the First Five-Year Plan and the amount has increased noticeably at the start of the Second Five-Year Plan.

He stressed the fact that Iranian pharmaceutical equipments compare favorably with those in the international market.

"At present we export medicines to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Kenya and some other regional countries," the deputy minister said.

Minister of Healthy Ali Reza Marandi, the second speaker at the opening ceremony, talked briefly on the achievements of the Health Ministry, the activities of the Export Promotion Center and the facilities provided by the Commerce Ministry to domestic producers, expressing his hope that by the end of the second plan all Iranian villages will be able to enjoy complete medical services.

He revealed that over 96 per cent of the country's medical needs are being met locally, and that Iran expects to be medically self-sufficient in the near future.

He said that before the revolution some 6,000 foreign physicians were in active medical practice in the country but that at present nearly all practising physicians all over the country are Iranians.

Official Reports Increase in Rubber Production

95LA0293C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June, 16 (IRNA) — **A total of 420,000 tons of rubber were produced inside the country in the post revolutionary era between the years 1979 and 1988.**

Director general of chemical and cellulose industrial department at industries ministry, Mahmud 'Edalatian announced here Tuesday that the figure rose up to 840,000 tons by the first 5-year economic development plan (1989-1994). Rubber output stood at 100,000 tons last year, he added.

'Edalatian put country's need to rubber at 160,000 tons annually and expressed hope that country's rubber product to reach 130,000 tons by end of this year.

Furthermore, the Iranian official hoped for country's rubber output's mounting up to 230,000 tons in the second 5-year economic development plan (1995-2000).

'Edalatian said that three rubber production projects would be fully operational by next year (to end March 20, 1997).

To raise country's rubber output, he concluded, Iran received last year $20 million in loan from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and that the figure is expected to rise up to $50 million by end of the year (March 20, 1996).

Abadan Resumes Export of Petroleum Products

95LA0293D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 18 — **The Iranian industrial port of Abadan resumed the export of petroleum products on Sunday, 15 years after it suspended operations during the Iraqi-imposed war, dispatches stated.**

Reports said an oil tanker flying the Bahamian flag, with a capacity of 15,000 tons, docked at the port on Sunday and loaded 2,600 tons of liquid tar destined for an unidentified African state.

The port in the northern Persian Gulf was repeatedly bombed during the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Repairs to port installations were completed in 1990, but could not be put to use because of obstacles blocking the Arvand-Rud river leading to Abadan, reported dispatches.

Pakistan

PDF Hails 'Encouraging' U.S. Move on Pressler

BK1907044995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The coordination meeting of the People's Democratic Front [PDF] held in Islamabad yesterday discussed the political situation, law and order, and coalition matters. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto presided over the meeting.

A spokesman of the PDF said after the meeting that the Front expressed its resolve to maintain understanding and forge consensus among its allies to further strengthen the alliance. He said the PDF leadership decided that any minor difference between the alliance will be sorted out in a democratic spirit. He said that current developments in the country, particularly the ongoing talks between the government and Altaf group on Karachi, were also reviewed in the meeting. The PDF leadership expressed satisfaction with the pace of talks.

The spokesman said the meeting also expressed satisfaction over the improvement of the situation and the return of normalcy in Malakand. Efforts of the Northwest Frontier Province government in securing release of German engineers from the kidnappers were also appreciated at the meeting.

The PDF spokesman said the alliance meeting also reviewed the pace of progress toward improved Pakistan-U.S. relations. It termed the steps taken by the U.S. Congress with regard to the Pressler Amendment as encouraging. The meeting lauded the statement of former U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Henry Kissinger terming India a hegemonistic and expansionist state.

The PDF meeting also discussed the incident of kidnapping of foreign tourists in held-Kashmir and noted that the incident was an intrigue to discredit the struggle of the Kashmiris against Indian occupation.

Daily Views Kissinger Remarks on Indian Ambitions

BK1707102995 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Towards Indian Raj"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former US Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger has warned that India may seek to "influence if not dominate a wide area extending from Aden to Singapore returning to the policies of British Raj," a news report said Saturday [15 July]. On his return from China, Dr Kissinger told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Russia was already turning imperialist and Japan may sooner or later build an atom bomb. Dr Kissinger insisted, China needed US help to checkmate these three countries. He said unless the US handled the situation in Asia carefully, all the Asian powers could unite against the United States. What Dr Kissinger says today has been known to all the countries in this region since this has been the backbone of Indian policy ever since it became a sovereign entity. Dr Kissinger has also warned that as India emerges to a great power status, it can be expected to return to the policies of the British Raj. Ever since

August 1947, India has had but one desire — realisation of its dream of Akhand Bharat (one India) with no trace whatsoever of Pakistan. That, too, would be part of its hegemonistic designs over the Asian region. Towards realisation of that dream, it is already making inroads into Afghanistan.

In view of India's imperialist ambitions, what should Pakistan do to keep intact its sovereign entity? To begin with we need a forward looking foreign policy which would mean looking after the interests of nearest neighbour Afghanistan. Unfortunately, in almost two years, this country has not sent a single envoy to Kabul in an attempt to try and help the people there to solve their immediate problems. During the period under review, we have hardly done anything to improve relations with either China or Iran. It is obvious that strengthening of relations with these neighbouring countries would go along way in countering the hegemonistic designs of any other immediate neighbour. In the alternative, we can expect India to do its utmost to realise its ambition to acquire great power status in the region. Whatever Pakistan has wanted to do in the recent past to strengthen its credible defence, India has always tried to thwart on the excuse that it will upset the balance of power in the region. All this while India has been arming itself to the teeth pretending that its military heavy weight does nothing to upset the balance of power. It stands to reason that we are to safeguard our own sovereignty, we will have to strengthen the bulwarks of our defence and not blame anyone for what we might have to face later as a consequence of any negligence.

French Tanks, Gunships Said on Procurement List

BK1807102195 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 18 Jul 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Pakistan is likely to purchase French Leclerc, main battle tanks, and helicopter gunships, Gazelle and Fennel, for its army. [sentence as published]

The chief of the army staff [COAS], General Abdul Waheed, who is currently on a visit to France to attend the independence day parade, is said to have discussed the French equipment procurement proposals with the officials of the defence ministry.

According to an ISPR [Interservice Public Relations] press release, General Abdul Waheed on Monday [17 July] met the head of the procurement agency in the ministry of defence, General Henry Conze, and minister for defence, Millon.

The press release says, "the two dignitaries exchanged views on bilateral relations, the global and regional issues, the French equipment procurement proposals and the concept of joint venture between the two countries for the production of defence equipment".

The chief of the army staff also witnessed the demonstration of battle tank Leclerc and was briefed on it. According to the procedure, the purchase deal for the tanks would be finalised by the ministry of defence.

The COAS also held a long discussion with the General Henry Conze. "The two dignitaries exchanged views on joint ventures to explore venues in defence cooperation specifically the support of French defence industry for the essentially required defence equipment for the Pakistan army".

It is pertinent to mention here that the military establishment of Pakistan and the political leadership in the recent past have put emphasis on the indigenisation of defence production.

General Waheed also called on the French joint chief of staff, Admiral Lanxade in Paris: He stayed with him for sometime and exchanged views on the present international scenario including Kashmir, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Chechnya and the peacekeeping operations in which both Pakistan and France have contributed substantial number of troops in various troubled parts of the world.

General Waheed also visited the French armoured corps school and was given a detailed briefing on the organisation and capabilities of the school which trains armoured corps officers.

It may be mentioned here that the army chief was invited by the French army to attend the independence day parade.

Construction Begins for Iranian Gas Pipeline

BK1707074595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Jul 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Pakistan and Iran have started spadework over the Pak-Iran gas import project worth US$ 8 billion which has recently been approved by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).

Officials of both the countries have been engaged in holding meetings to chalk out details pertaining to the project, which, if implemented, will go a long way in strengthening the economic as well as political ties between the two countries.

They also discussed a study conducted for evaluating gas demand in Pakistan, according to which 1600 MMCFD [million cubic feet per day] of Iranian gas on average basis would be supplied daily. The final destination, according to the proposed plan, would be Gandani, 30 Km west of Karachi.

South Pars field located in Persian Gulf at approximately 100 Km from the Iranian coast at a water depth of ranging between 60-70 meters, is earmarked as the principle gas supply source. Off-shore gas production and on-shore gas treatment plant were considered for delivery of pipeline quality gas at a maximum daily quantity of 1780 MMCF [million cubic feet] and 2000 MMCF These projects will be undertaken by the Government of Iran.

The overall pipeline length is estimated to be 1638 Km which will originate at Assaluye, north coast of Persian Gulf, and pass eastward along the coastal line of Iran and Pakistan and terminate at Gadani, 30 Km west of Karachi.

For the purpose of optimisation of gas transportation capital cost versus pipeline diameter and number of compressors, different pipeline sizes from 42" up to 56" were considered. The study revealed that for gas flow of 1780 MMCFD and 2000 MMCFD (at 75 bar maximum operating pressure) the minimum investment costs correspond to pipeline with 48" and 56" diameter respectively.

Shortlisting of the companies has already been finalized which is as follows: 1) Shell International, 2) Petronas Carigali (Malaysia), 3) BHP (Australia), 4) Gaz De France (France), 5) British Gas (UK), 6) Novacorp (Canada).

Article Views Bhutto 'Oppression' of Mohajirs

95AS0445A Karachi AMN in Urdu 25 May 95 p 3

[Article by Nighat Mirza Hina: "The Prime Minister's Hatred for Mohajirs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] People are the source of a democratic government's strength; a government which treats all the people with justice builds strong foundations for itself. It is the responsibility of the government and the authorities to fulfill the basic needs of the people and protect their life and property. It is the duty of the government in office to pay immediate attention to the breakdown of law and order in any part of the country. Democratic governments are composed of the elected representatives of the people. Unfortunately, however, even after an elected government came into office [in Pakistan], dictatorship did not end. The representatives of three provinces and half the population of the fourth province have been included in the government but the elected representatives of the urban areas of Sindh have been kept out of the government and locked away in distant jails; democracy has become a joke.

MQM [Mohajir Qaumi Movement] is the sole party which represents urban Sindh. On one day's notice, twenty million Mohajirs voted in the provincial assembly elections and chose the candidates nominated by Altaf Hussain. The Mohajirs thus showed their confidence in Altaf Hussain's party and candidates. The government's stubborn attitude, however, has prevented the elected representatives of 20 million Mohajirs from participating in the government. The raids carried out on the homes of these representatives and their arrests hold up this government to ridicule. Senators who are the objects of the government's ire are now in jail. Under the pretext of searching for weapons, Mohajir communities are besieged for days and the young, old and children subjected to the kind of treatment which has aroused much comment in the international press. But worse things have happened. During these sieges, women have been subjected to outrage and these incidents reflect the shameful behaviour of the lady prime minister and her government employees. The law of the jungle rules Pakistan and these conditions did not arise only recently. In her former term of office, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's "champions" had played havoc and, on the fifth anniversary of the martyrdom of individuals in those disturbances, the inflammatory speech she gave in Qusur revealed fully her deep hatred for 20 million Mohajirs.

The prime minister was labouring under delusion when she said that she would win easily against any MQM candidate in any part of Karachi. We still remember the day when it became necessary for our elected prime minister to save face in the eyes of the world and visit Karachi. She could not venture into the streets of Karachi even in a car and had to fulfill her duty by hovering over Karachi in a helicopter.

The lady's beliefs are founded on those of her father. He never gained the love of the people and he never saw such beautiful sights as people waiting for hours to hear the message of their beloved leader over the telephone [as is the case with Altaf Hussain].

Operation clean-up has become the lady's pet peeve; she used to issue orders secretly, but now she has reached the point where she has blurted out what was in her heart in front of a crowd. This is the height of helplessness; over the last three years, the Mohajirs have have subjected to every kind of oppression but they have suffered with great fortitude and patience and have remained steadfast. If the lady thinks that the people of Karachi and other urban areas in Sindh are hoarding large quantities of arms in their cellars, then the blame should fall on her "champions" who, even after exerting power over the province the last three years, have not been able to find any weapons.

The prime minister gave to Rajiv Gandhi, the late Indian prime minister, a list of Sikh freedom lovers and acknowledged openly that she had done so. Her brother Murtaza Bhutto has been absolved from every case brought against him the courts and has made a mockery of justice. His sister protects this open enemy of Pakistan. The mistreatment of the children of the founders of Pakistan has been going on from the time of Benazir's father. This is her second term and the drama is once more at its height. She knows well that when the second act of this play starts, her government will be on its last legs. By levelling poisonous charges against MQM's leader and trying to show that 20 million patriotic Mohajirs are traitors, she will never succeed in proving that she is faithful to Pakistan. She was correct when she said in her speech that history does not forgive traitors and remembers only their names.

Benazir Bhutto should understand that she will not be able to keep the Mohajirs as the targets of her oppression and cruelty for long. If she knows history, she should know also that in every age, the oppressed have destroyed the oppression of tyrants; providence has never allowed an oppressor such unlimited lattitude as to forget God and his punishment. She talks of the graves of traitors; lady, do the dead know the peace of the grave, does God?

The lady should come to her senses; if she keeps her eyes open during her tours of the interior of Sindh, she will see Sindhu Desh banners and G.M. Sayed's many followers. It was Altaf Hussain who declared loudly and clearly that as long as a single Mohajir was alive, the dream of Sindhu Desh would not be realized.

One must say with a thousand regrets that the lady sees with the eyes and thinks with the minds of the sychophant jugglers around her. When brainless rulers obtain total control over the people, then only God can help, and God's help is near.

Bhutto Views Karachi Situation, Meets Businessmen

BK1407145395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that dialogue with the Altaf Group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement] is continuing, and the government will keep its doors open for talks in future as well. She stated this while presiding over a high- level meeting held to review law and order situation in Karachi this afternoon. The prime minister informed the meeting that the next round of talks will be held in Karachi on Sunday [16 July]. She said the government agreed to the demand of the Altaf Group to hold the next round in Karachi because it wants to maintain a conducive atmosphere for the talks. While reviewing law and order situation, the prime minister appreciated the efforts of police, Rangers, and law enforcement agencies in containing the terrorist and criminal activities. The prime minister directed the law enforcement agencies to continue to maintain vigil against terrorist activities and criminals. She said terrorism be controlled with full force of law. The meeting was attended by Sindh Governor Mr. Kamal Azfar, Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah, Interior Minister Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar, besides senior officers of relevant federal and provincial government departments.

The prime minister also held a meeting with the leaders of the business community in Karachi today. She apprised the traders and businessmen about the government's policies with regard to law and order situation in Karachi and steps being taken by her government to ensure peace and security in the city.

Briefing the newsmen after the meeting, the prime minister's adviser on economic affairs, Mr. V.A. Jaffery, said that a number of problems being faced by the traders and businessmen also came up for discussion, which included the implementation of the textile policy with special reference to duty drawbacks. Matters regarding distribution of raw cotton imported from Central Asian region was also discussed and the prime minister ordered that Central Asian cotton be distributed immediately.

The prime minister, during the meeting, urged upon the business community to come forward and invest in the Gwadar port project which the government intends to build at a cost of $800 million. She said it will be a container port with great potential for investment. Pakistan's private sector should also come forward with the intention to invest in this project, the prime minister added. The prime minister ordered concerned officials to submit a report on the implementation of Export Credit Investment Guarantee Scheme. Matters regarding the exemption of private power generation plants which opened LC's [letters of credit] before the announcement of the budget also came up for discussion and affected traders were asked to send details in this regard to the CBR [Central Bureau of Revenue] for consideration. Mr. V.A. Jaffery said that a national electricity power rate committee has already been constituted, which will determine the rate of electricity produced by the private sector.

Minister Says MQM Kills on 'Ethnic Grounds'

BK1807080695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP) - interior Minister Naseerullah Babar accused the MQM (A) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf Group] of killing Sindhis and Punjabis on ethnic grounds in Karachi and said he can prove this charge by providing statistical evidence.

Replying to the speeches of Baloch Senators namely, Manzoor Ghichki, Abdul Hyee and Abdul Rahim Mandokhel, who had expressed their concern over the attacks on Baloch and Pukhtoon residential colonies, Babar said, "it was an attempt to create ethnic hatred in the city", adding "MQM (A) is involved in the ethnic killing and now they are particularly targeting the Punjabis and Pukhtooms". He went on to claim that leading businessmen in Karachi, told him during a recent meeting that their Pathan labour was fleeing Karachi out of fear their lives which has been been causing great difficulties for them and the industry. He added that in areas of Orangi, a township in Karachi the Altaf Group was trying to evict Baloch-speaking population to capture their properties, adding "Similarly Pathan labourers were forced to leave Karachi".

Sensing the harsh tone of Babar, State Minister for Law Raza Rabbani jumped into the situation and tried to tone down the criticism on MQM, saying "The government was committed to its responsibility of defending and protecting life, property and honour of the people and the territorial integrity of the country". He declared that it had been a cardinal principle of the government that each and every person was equal before law, adding "Government was trying its best to maintain a cordial atmosphere for the success of the government-Altaf group talks and the government did not respond to provoking statements to keep the atmosphere of cordiality".

Raza also regretted the latest statement of Ajmal Dehlvi regarding government insincerity towards talks and ongoing action against the MQM in Karachi. He said "I hope that he was misquoted".

Defending his party, MQM Senator Aftab Sheikh denied that the Balochis were being killed by Altaf Group and appealed to the Interior Minister not to make issue such a provoking statements when talks were going on between the government and the MQM. [sentence as published]

In another reply to Ajmal Khattak's criticism of army action in Khyber Agency. Babar said that law and order situation would not be tolerated anywhere in the country whether it took place in FATA, [Federally Administered Tribal Area], Malakand or Karachi, adding "No resistance would be allowed in the government's efforts to maintain law and order. If the government's writ is challenged anywhere in the country the government will respond with full force."

Earlier, Khattak wanted to discuss reported killing of three persons in Bara (FATA) by Frontier Corps on Sunday [16 July]. He went on to roar that Bara was a free area and the tribal did not enjoy the right of non-intrusion. He said in the recent incidents some tribal outlaws attacked an army contingent as a result of which one Army Captain and Havaldar sustained injuries, adding "Army has every right to conduct exercises in tribal area". Babar said the area where FC [Frontier Corps] took action was not inaccessible one as was being contended by Khattak, and the government agencies could move in there. He said the FATA have to be integrated into the province and these areas should be granted representation in the NWFP assembly, claiming "In 1977 he advocated the introduction of adult franchise in the tribal area and their separation from the Centre so that tribals could assimilate with the provinces."

However, Ajmal Khattak refuted the claims of Babar and said the Bara is not under the control of the Federal government and said, "The incident was serious and dual policy regarding the FATA should be ended. Government is intervening in the area by making smuggling an excuse".

PPI adds: Prof N.D. Khan, Federal Minister of Law and Justice and Leader of the Government's negotiating team on Monday said that there was progress in talks with the MQM and stressed that their final success depends on the restoration of peace, end to terrorism and violence in Karachi.

Talking to newsmen at the Sindh Governor's House Monday afternoon on the conclusion of the third round of talk with the MQM team, the Minister said the first priority for the successful conclusion of the negotiations was return of peace, normalcy, tranquility and normal day-to-day activity in Karachi. To achieve this, threadbare discussions were held at Monday's talks, he added.

He maintained that in order to restore peace in this cosmopolitan city it was imperative that terrorism and violence should end and weapons handed over to the authorities so that killing of innocent people stop forthwith. We are going to achieve this goal", he added. [punctuation as published]

Prof N.D. Khan said that he had received lists of cases against the MQM leaders and workers for review particularly those against their Senators and members of Sindh Assembly. "We are in touch with the Sindh government in this connection as it was a provincial matter. We are also in touch with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto".

Answering a question, he said the first concern of the government was return of peace and and normalcy in Karachi so that the talks are successful. "First there should be peace on the ground", he observed.

To another question, he said that both sides were holding unconditional talks."I hope a time will come soon when there will be discussions on point-to-point on the demands of both sides. Both sides exchanged their lists of demands at the second round of talks, held in Islamabad last Thursday", he added.

He told a questionnaire [as published] that the modalities for holding talks have already been settled between the two sides.

He referred to the joint statement issued after Monday's talks in which both sides strongly condemned terrorism and violence and reviewed important matters in respect of restoration of peace.

He was hopeful that peace will be restored in Karachi and this would result in further progress in the talks. "We are a democratic government and believe that political issues should be settled politically", he stressed.

When a newsmen asked that by demanding of the MQM to surrender weapons and terrorists to the authorities the government had adopted a hardline, N.D. Khan replied, "This is not a hardline. Restoring peace is basic necessity for the success of the negotiations. In order to achieve this objective terrorism and violence must end and weapons be handed over to the authorities".

Answering yet another question, the Minister said that everybody knows who was involved in terrorist activities. When told that although three round of talks have been held between the government and the MQM, but killings have not yet stopped in Karachi, he said, "I think there was progress in the talks today."

He told another questionnaire that no deadline can be fixed for the conclusions of negotiations as "issues being discussed are complicated."

He said he raised the issue of terrorist activities in Korangi area of Karachi District East which was his National Assembly constituency at Monday's talks.

According to the minister, the government-side also raised the interview given to foreign media by MQM leader Altaf Hussain in which he reportedly stated that the Two-Nation Theory does not exist anymore.

N.D. Khan, who later left for Islamabad, said he would brief Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on the progress of talks with the MQM on Monday evening. Other members of the government-team, Aftaq Shakid and Zuhair Akram Nadeem, were also present on the occasion.

Official Talks Continue Between Government, MQM

Ministers Comment on Talks

BK1807143995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal law minister, Mr. N.D. Khan, has said restoration of peace in Karachi is prerequisite for the progress of government-Altaf group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement] ongoing dialogue. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said it was easy to deal with the political issues when the ground situation was favorable. Mr. Khan, who heads government side at the dialogue, said since both sides have decided to sit across the table to sort out the Karachi problem, the progress of negotiations depended on give and take on their part. The federal law minister said it were the terrorists who had disrupted peace in Karachi and that was the reason the government was asking them to lay down the arms. He said Altaf group should disassociate itself from the terrorists and join government's efforts to bring normalcy back to Karachi.

The fourth round of talks between government and Altaf group is scheduled to begin in Islamabad on Thursday [20 July].

The interior minister, Mr. Nasirullah Khan Babar, has said the government would not allow a small group of people to carry out terrorist activities in Karachi. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said at least 4,000-5,000 retired employees of the Frontier Corps, who were fully trained, would be sent to deal with the law and order situation in the city. He said it was also decided by the government to relieve the policemen of their static duties, like on diplomatic missions and banks in Karachi, so that they could be utilized for maintaining law and order situation. Screening of some policemen who might have connections with the criminals was also going on. The interior minister said that negotiations did not mean that the government should stop taking to task those who were killing people in Karachi. He said the time would come when terrorists of Altaf group might decide to snap their links with their leader.

MQM: Talks at 'Critical Phase'

BK1807035595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI (PPI) — Leader of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] negotiating team Ajmal Dehlvi on Monday [17 July] disclosed that they hoped to meet President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during the fourth round of talks beginning in Islamabad from July 20, which will "help in resolving thorny issues between the two sides and meeting our demands."

"I hope that when the next round of talks start in Islamabad next Thursday, we will be able to meet the President and the Prime Minister. If these meetings take place, it will help in resolving thorny issues and the government team will cooperate in meeting our demands."

"The talks are at present in critical phase and I hope that by the time the fourth round starts in Islamabad from July 20, the government-side will be able to take steps to improve the situation in Karachi and take decisions on important issues raised by us at today's talks" Dehlvi said while answering newsmen questions at the Karachi Press Club on conclusion of the third round of talks.

He said that on the directive of MQM leader Altaf Hussain, the MQM team told the government-side on Monday that "we give top priority to restoration of peace be taken to end the opposition, injustices and excesses so that a conducive atmosphere is created for meeting our demands. For ensuring peace we gave some suggestions to the government-side as well as details of the injustices and excesses. N.D. Khan, Federal Law Minister and leader of government-side assured that government will take urgent steps to restore law and order in Karachi."

He said the aim of the MQM in holding talks with the government was to restore peace in Karachi and get its demands accepted.

Asked about the reported interview of MQM leader Altaf Hussain to a foreign media, Dehlvi said Altaf Hussain wrote many letters to the President, Army Chief, politicians and editors to condemn terrorism and violence. The MQM chief also drew their attention towards terrorism by the State and others and demanded that it should end. To a question, he said that in case agreement was reached between the government and the MQM, the groups of terrorist will disappear from Karachi and other parts of urban Sindh.

Asked about the progress of talks, he replied that the two sides have made some headway. He said at Monday's talk it was agreed that neither side will issue provocative statements as these were not conducive for the progress in the negotiations.

To another questions, he said that Altaf Hussain had directed them to continue the negotiations with the government despite the injustices and excesses against the Muhajirs.

Asked in case the MQM reached agreement with the government, it will withdraw its petitioned filed in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, he explained that the success of the talks had no link with the MQM's petitition in the Supreme Court.

"We are holding talks with the government for the acceptance of our demands while our petition in the Supreme Court pertains to violation of human rights and the Constitution as well as the injustices."

Dehlvi felt that there was need to have confidence-building measures by stopping the mass scale raids, arrests and killings of the Muhajirs. We gave list of 300 MQM leaders and workers to the government who have been shifted from Karachi jail to interior Sindh and demanded that they should be brought back," he added.

To another question, he maintained that in case agreement was arrived at with the Peoples Party government and later it was replaced by the government of other party, the incoming one would honour it. He said with the present Opposition parties (Muslim League and Awami National Party), the MQM has political understanding and these parties support our demands. If these Opposition parties come into power they will certainly honour the agreement reached with the present government, he stressed.

He said that it was the basic responsibility of the government and the MQM to restore peace and undertake development work. He ruled out talks with any other group whom he called, "antisocial elements" as they have no mandate.

He said that if confidence-building measures were adopted and peace restored in Karachi, then there would be no difficulty in accepting demands of the MQM.

He denied that the MQM was a terrorist organisation and added, "we have no terrorist in our ranks. MQM always opposed terrorism and violence. Act of an individual cannot be put on his family or the political party he belongs to."

According to Dehlvi, if the government and the law-enforcing agencies become neutral, stop injustices and lift the ban on the MQM we can restore peace in Karachi within one week.

He repeated that the MQM has not received the 21-point charter of demands from the government-side and read it only in the Press. "We are in the MQM and do not recognise any Altaf Group, " he said.

Other members of the MQM team, Shoaib Bukhari, Tariq Javed, Qazi Khalid Ali and Shaikh Liaquat Hussain were also present on the occasion.

Daily Urges 'Understanding and Humility'

BK1707084195 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 16 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Save the Talks From Failure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was clear from the very begining of the Government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] talks which started on 11 July that negotiations between the two parties are not an easy task and many problems and intricacies might come up. That is why all patriotic circles advised both parties repeatedly to restrain themselves from taking actions that could add to the problems. Several times through these columns, we have urged caution regarding the extremely sensitive and fragile nature of the talks and requested both parties to try their best to make these talks a success. After the completion of two rounds of the talks, it appears that the problems are much more complicated than estimated earlier.

Leaders of both teams are telling each other that they do not have full authority and it is not possible for them to accept any demands or give any concessions. Ajmal Dehlvi, the MQM team leader, has told N.D. Khan that he is not in a position to endorse even the smallest terms and cannot even announce the stoppage of action by the rangers. Khan asked him if he could declare concession on any of the 18 points. Thus both parties blamed each other for being powerless. The MQM team says no 21-point charter of demands was brought to them in the second round and it was only through the press that they came to know about those points. Khan, however, claims that he presented that charter to Dehlvi himself. Khan told newsmen that the 18 MQM points can come under consideration only within the constitutional limits and that he will have to consult the provincial government before taking a position on any of these points.

Meanwhile, Dehlvi and his associates have termed the 21 government points a charge-sheet against the MQM and said that these demands prove that the government is not sincere in restoring peace and making the talks successful. It has also been reported that Altaf Hussain has taken talks into his own hands and will make an important announcement by Saturday [15 July] evening. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said she will keep the doors of negotiation open, but government action against the terrorists will continue. Khan has said that there is no deadlock in the talks and that today (Sunday) the talks will proceed according to the agenda. We hope that his assessment is correct and no irresolvable problems arise. The two parties should never forget that the nation in general and the city and people of Karachi in particular cannot endure the failure of these talks, as the consequences, God forbid, would be horrible.

The two parties should not forget even for a single moment that their only way out is through peaceful coexistence, and they should be as tolerant with each other's point of view as possible. When the positions of two groups are far apart, then an acceptable and agreeable compromise can be reached only through understanding and humility. We hope that both parties will recognize their historic responsibilities and not let the situation deteriorate, but rather try to improve it. Due to the situation in Karachi, the country's economy, internal peace and order, and even national security is in danger, thus we cannot afford any more mistakes. Both parties should act very responsibly and play their roles in resolving the problem. History will never forgive them if they fail to do so.

Sri Lanka

Pakistan's Bhutto Visit Postponed Due to Fighting

BK1807031695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The proposed visit to Colombo by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been postponed following the escalation of fighting between Sri Lankan troops and Tiger separatists, officials said yesterday.

Sri Lanka's foreign secretary Rodney Vendergert said that they were hoping for an early visit although no firm date had been finalized. But under the current situation, both sides felt it was not the right time. Both governments were hoping to organize a three-day visit in early August.

It was to be the first high-level visit here from Islamabad since President Chandrika Kumaratunga came to power in August.

Buddhist Clergy Demands Expulsion of ICRC

BK1907092695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0449 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, July 19 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's influential Buddhist clergy has demanded the expulsion of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) saying it supports separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, press reports said Wednesday [19 July].

Leading Buddhist monk Valpola Rahula said the ICRC supported the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which is leading a guerrilla campaign in the island's Northeast to set up an independent Tamil homeland.

"The Red Cross is a complete fraud. It is an organisation that sides with terrorists who want to divide this country," the Sinhala- language DINAMINA daily quoted the monk as saying Tuesday.

The ICRC, however, has consistently maintained they were neutral and was concerned about the protection of civilians in combat zones. The ICRC operates the main hospital in the northern Jaffna peninsula where the LTTE maintains its de facto state.

The head of the ICRC delegation here, Marco Altherr, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Monday over his statements accusing the air force for civilian losses in an ongoing offensive against the LTTE.

Altherr expressed his "regret" and wanted his "apologies" conveyed to President Chandrika Kumaratunga, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The ICRC had in a statement last week said that the airforce bombed the St. Peter's Church at Navali in the Jaffna peninsula, killing at least 65 civilians. ICRC officials also said that 13 babies were among the victims.

The Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar expressed his "displeasure" that the ICRC violated accepted norms and thought it fit to issue a statement without first giving the government time to respond, the statement said.

Government Operation Against LTTE Continues

Military Spokesman Views Progress

BK1807130995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Operation Leap Forward will continue to maintain its momentum. Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe has emphasized that this operation will continue in the Jaffna Peninsula and the troops will not or evacuate from the liberated areas. [sentence as heard]

At present the forces are continuing clearing operation, further consolidating the liberated areas. The authority of the security forces within the Jaffna Peninsula will be further expanded. The brigadier said that they had dedicated personnel to handle this task. The attack on a Sri Lankan naval vessel at Kankesanturai will not hinder the operation. The Air Force has personnel who are determined to attack the enemy, facing any threat. Brigadier Munasinghe added that the Air Force also had all material required for this purpose.

Chief of staff of the operation [words indistinct] pointed out that air travel to the Jaffna Peninsula was continuing as usual. These details were given at a news conference held in Colombo yesterday on security operation.

Around 150 civilians have been killed in Tavadi, close to Kokkuvil, in Jaffna town yesterday by an explosion caused accidentally by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The three trucks of the LTTE carrying civilians had blown up, killing all occupants. Around 40 senior LTTE members were reported killed in the explosion. At a news conference held in Colombo, military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said that he was also aware of this incident. However, he said, he has not received official details of casualties. Answering a question raised by newsmen, Brigadier Munasinghe said that although the LTTE is quickly spreading details of Army attacks, this incident has so far not been given any publicity by them.

Brigadier Munasinghe said that Operation Leap Forward is being successfully continued and that details of this operation will be conveyed to the people. He noted that security forces have been able to achieve its targets in the operation, while the major objective of this operation is to inform the people in Jaffna that the security forces are coming to their areas to liberate them from the grip of the LTTE. The search operations in liberated areas are continuing. Troops killed 17 terrorists in search operations conducted in Alaveddi and Sandilippai areas. According to unconfirmed reports, 300 LTTE terrorists have been killed in confrontation so far. The LTTE officially accepted that 65 of their cadres were killed in action. Twenty-nine soldiers and four officers were killed in the confrontation with the LTTE; 65 soldiers suffered injuries.

Army Withdraws From Captured Areas

BK1807151895 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a surprise development, the Sri Lankan Army today withdrew from the areas it had captured from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] rebels in the Jaffna Peninsula. PTI, quoting government sources in Colombo, said the Army has returned to the Palali military base. Reports say that the withdrawal appears to be for tactical reasons. Top military commanders at the Palali base are holding meetings and finalizing future strategies. A Defense Ministry spokesman, however, maintained that the Army is yet to withdraw.

The Sri Lankan troops numbering over 10,000 launched on 9 July their biggest ever operation — codenamed Leap Forward — in the LTTE-held Jaffna Peninsula.

The LTTE's London office in a press note claimed earlier today that the rebels have launched a counteroffensive under the direct command of the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran, and pushed back the Army to the pre-Operation Leap Forward areas.

Forces Use 'Mobile' Defense Strategy

BK1907100695 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0710 GMT 19 Jul 95

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 19 Jul (LANKAPUVATH) -- Government troops Monday [17 July] night captured the camouflaged Pajero intercooler used by the head of the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's] political wing Thamil Chelvam.

Senior military sources told LANKAPUVATH that the camouflaged Pajero was entering the newly liberated Sandilippai area in northern Jaffna District when ambushed by army's mobile defences and captured it.

The same vehicle had been seen earlier trying to penetrate the defences last Friday night.

The sources disclosed that the bunkerline concept which forced troops to remain in a fixed position and allowed terrorists to easier penetration of gaps in the forward defence localities [FDLs], had now been replaced by a mobile defence system which was now in operation in the 78 square kilometre captured area in the northern peninsula in Operation 'Leap Forward'. This means that the entire FDLs were covered and that the terrorists could not be sure as to the location of government troops manning the FDLs.

Since the system was introduced three days ago, 22 terrorists have been killed by government troops and the Pajero captured.

The sources stressed that despite reports to the contrary, the security forces were in total control of the entire newly captured area.

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